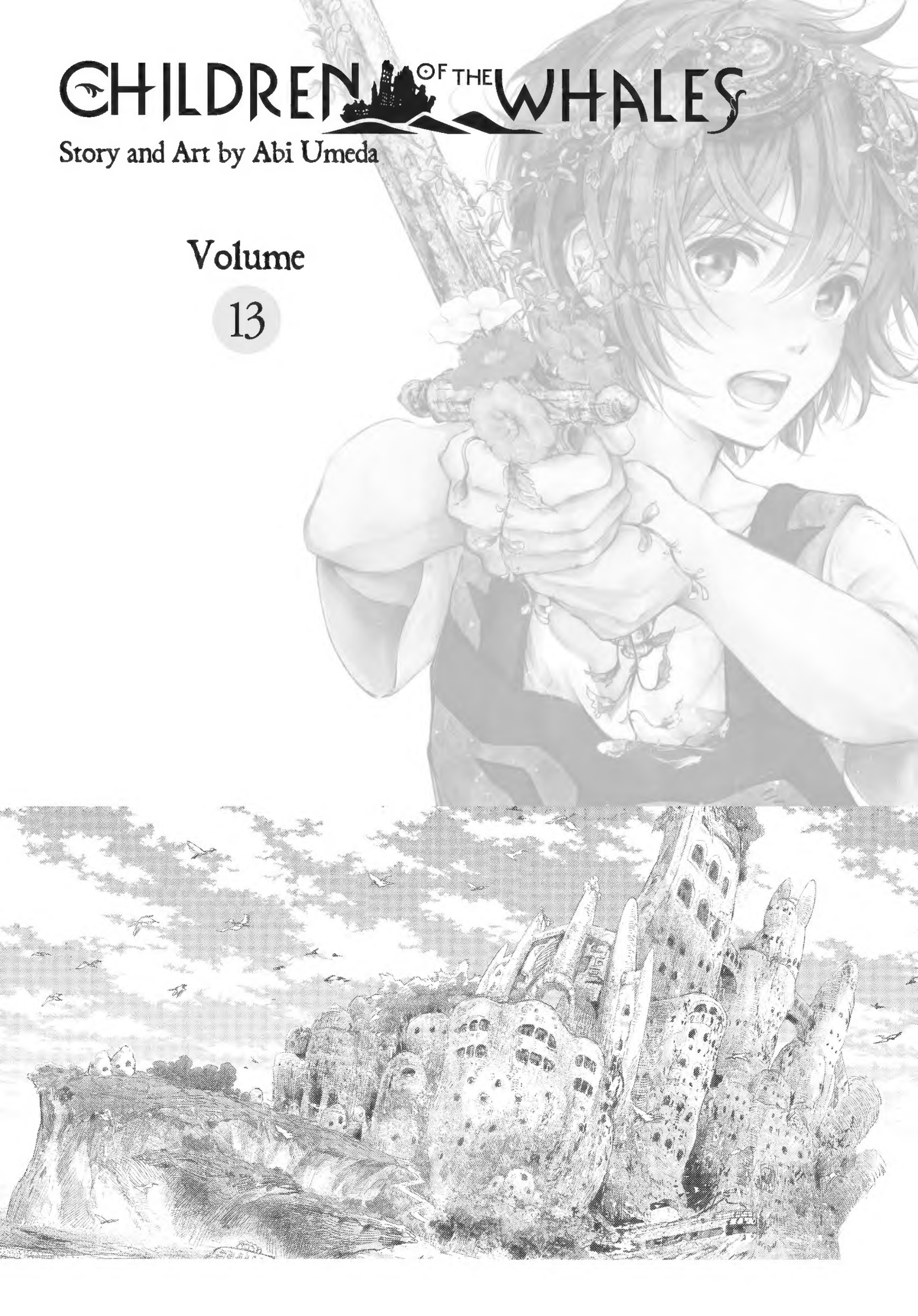

CHILDREN OF THE WHALES
13
ABI UMEDA


CHILDREN OF THE WHALES
Story and Art by Abi Umeda
Volume
13

On the Mud Whale



Ouni
(Marked, 16 years old)

A very powerful thymia user. His daímonas power is awakening, but he is still defeated by Orca and captured.



Lykos
(Marked, 14 years old)

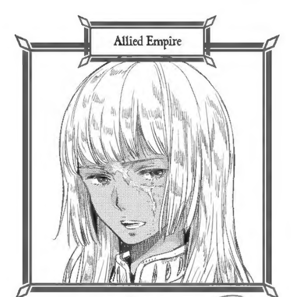
A girl from the Allied Empire who drifted into the Mud Whale. She runs into Liontari in Amonlogia and is captured.



Chakuro
(Marked, 14 years old)

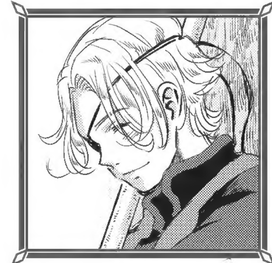
The young archivist of the Mud Whale. In order to save the hostage Unmarked, he and a group of Marked infiltrate Amonlogia.

Allied Empire



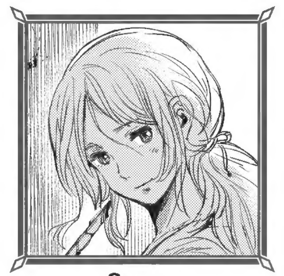
Orca
(Marked)

A high-ranking official from the Allied Empire and Lykos's brother. He invades Amonlogia and seizes the island's guardian, Kýma.



Shuan
(Marked, 26 years old)

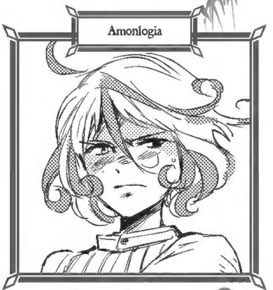
Former commander of the Vigilante Corps. He takes on Orca in an attempt to save Ouni, but is no match for the imperial commander.



Suou
(Unmarked, 17 years old)

Mayor of the Mud Whale. Was being held prisoner with the rest of the Unmarked, but they have since been rescued.

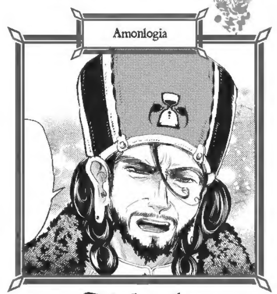
Amonlogia



Rochalízo
(?, 17 years old)

The youngest son of the Duke of Amonlogia. He is considered useless by his family, but he has decided to save the Mud Whale.

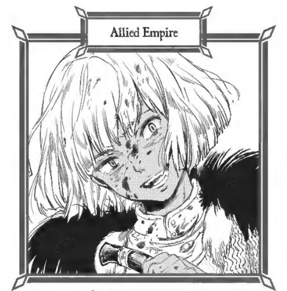
Amonlogia



Dáchtyla

Duke of Amonlogia and Rochalízo's father. His greatest fear, the capture of the guardian Kýma, has come to pass.

Allied Empire



Liontari
(Marked)

Joined the invasion of Amonlogia as Orca's jester. He faces off against Lykos and Chakuro.



Glossary of the Sea of Sand



The Mud Whale	A huge, drifting island-ship. Those in the empire who resisted giving up their emotions were exiled here, along with all their descendants.
Thymia	Telekinetic power derived from emotions.
The Marked	The 90 percent of the Mud Whale population who are thymia users. They are all short-lived.
The Unmarked	The members of the Mud Whale population who cannot use thymia. Unlike the Marked, they are long-lived.
Nous	A unique organism that obtains energy from peoples' emotions and gives people the power of thymia in return.
Nous Fálaina	A Nous that dwells deep within the Belly of the Mud Whale. Unlike other Nouses, it consumes the life force of humans rather than their emotions.
The Allied Empire	A large nation on the Sea of Sand that controls its citizenry through the Nouses and their absorption of emotions.
Daímonas	A legend from the empire. A being said to be able to destroy a Nous.



A Record of the Mud Whale and the Sea of Sand



Year 93 of the Sand Exile.

The Mud Whale drifts endlessly through the Sea of Sand, home to about 500 people who know nothing of the outside world.

The Mud Whale has been rocked by crisis, and the Amonlogian capitol is the stage of a violent clash between local and imperial troops. Chakuro, Ouni and the other Marked who rescued the hostage Unmarked are planning their escape, but Orca, commander of the imperial troops, stands in their way. Shuan and Ouni try to counter him, but they are swiftly defeated by his overpowering thymia. They are captured along with Lykos, who was defeated by Liontari.

"The Mud Whale was our entire world."

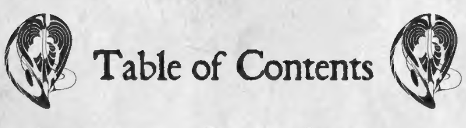


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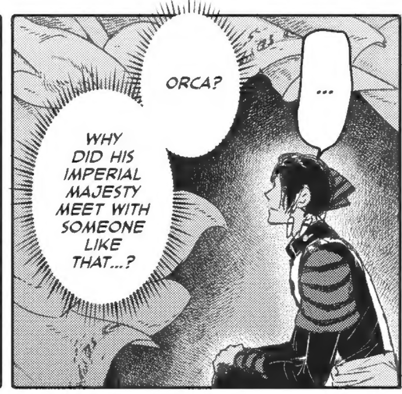

I can't stop writing.
It used to feel like the world was full of meaningless things...
...that I couldn't understand.
But now I want to know everything.
Now I want to see the future...


...and the end of the world and everyone in it!
Chapter 53
Cage of Wishes
Oh, dear.
I got off track.
I have something to ask of you, Commander Atsáli.


I need a favor.
As you know, the people of the empire are forbidden to look at me.
Only the Ekklisia or the prime minister can be granted an audience.
And...
...even they are never allowed to initiate conversation.
WHAT COULD HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY POSSIBLY NEED FROM ME THAT IT DRIVES HIM TO BREAK PROTOCOL...?
Listen closely...


You are not the first person forbidden my presence...
...with whom I have met in secret.
The first...

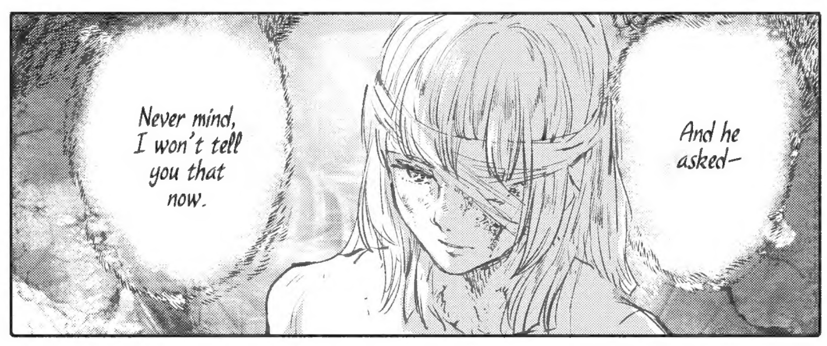

...was one called Orca.
The previous commander of the apátheia.
!

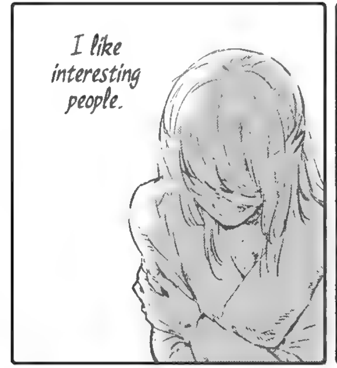

...
ORCA?
WHY DID HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY MEET WITH SOMEONE LIKE THAT...?


I needed something from him.

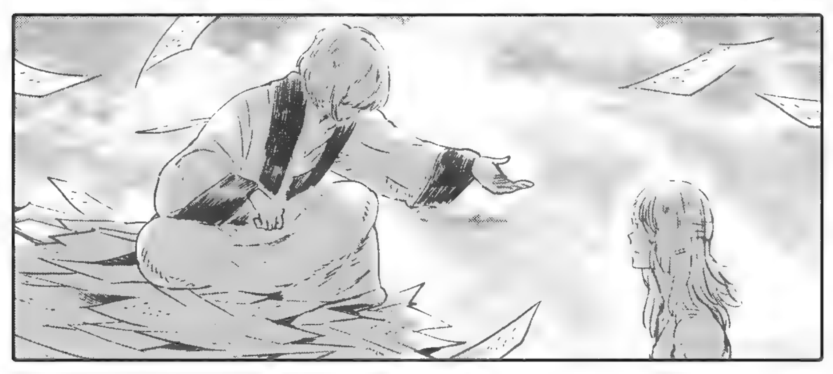


Orca asked me for something first.




I like interesting people.


But I liked him.




...
I AM NOT AN INTERESTING PERSON, BUT YOU WILL ASK SOMETHING OF ME REGARDLESS?
...


You have realized that you don't need to speak aloud to communicate with me.


Apparently, it is a special talent that runs in our family...
GRAB
Don't worry, you **are** interesting.


Now, back to the topic at hand.
The two of us made a deal.


I gave him the knowledge and the opportunity he needed in order to attain what he desired...
...and in return, I asked that he get me something I wanted.


WHAT HE WANTS...

It's so far away right now...

Fálaina.

...

FÁLAINA...

THE PRISON SHIP CAST AWAY ON THE SANDS...

...THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE EMPIRE FORGOT ABOUT SO LONG AGO...


ORCA...
...HAS BEEN SO OBSESSED WITH THAT SHIP...
...BECAUSE THE EMPEROR DESIRES IT!
...
He's a faithful cog...
...for the time being.


That island's fortunes began to change...
...due to my interest and Orca's arrival.
No matter how hard...
...the criminals of Fálaina shiver and pray to the morning star...
...they cannot change the whirling, furious tide of their fate.
No more than grains of sand in my palm could.

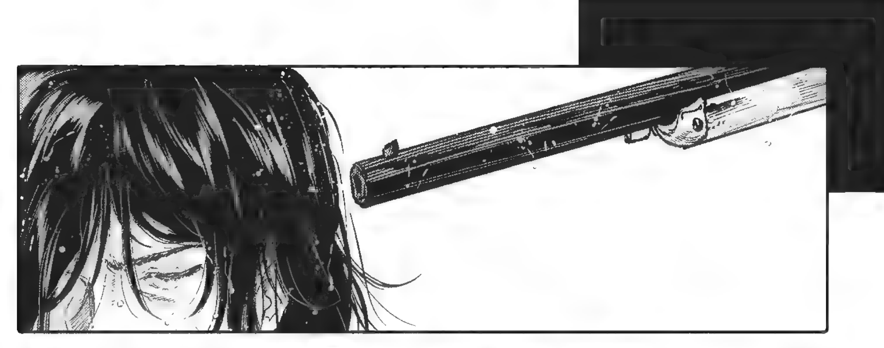
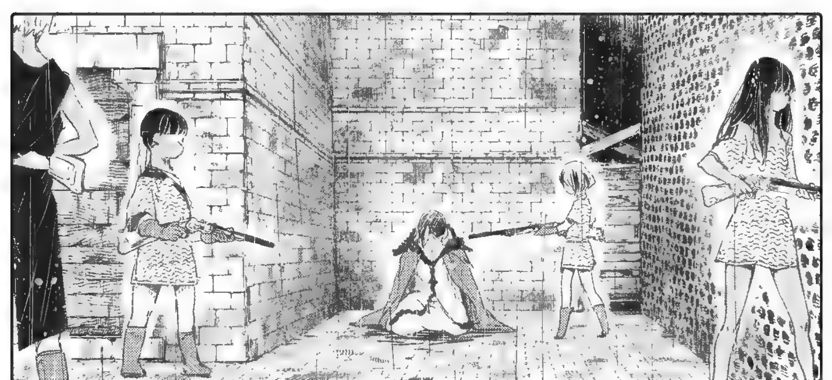
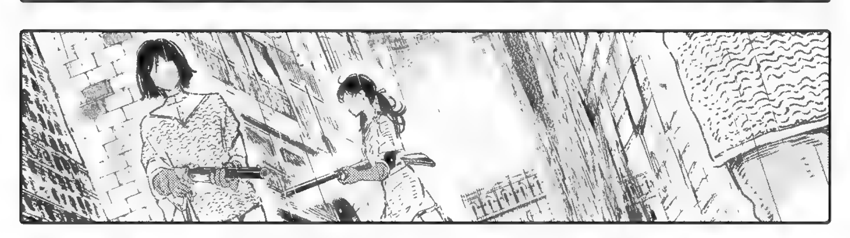

So...
...back to my favor, Commander Atsáli...

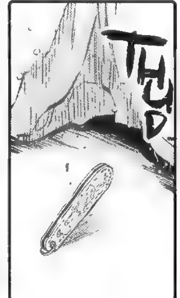

When Orca returns with what I asked of him...
...I want you...
...to kill him!


Fálaina is not his toy.
The sand, wind and sunlight of that island...
...are mine.

KSSSH
SUOCCHI?
DON'T WORRY, I'M SURE CHAKURO AND THE OTHERS WILL COME BACK.
WE NEED TO GET BACK TO THE UNMARKED WE LEFT BEHIND.
THAT'S OUR MEETING PLACE.


Y-YES.
CHAKURO AND RO WILL FIND LYKOS...
...THE COMMANDER WILL FIND OUNI...
...AND THEY WILL DEFINITELY BRING THEM ALL BACK.
ONCE AGAIN, THE ONLY THING I CAN DO IS BELIEVE IN THEM.
BUT ...
...IS THAT ENOUGH?
DÁCHTYLA ...
...WAS WITH US THEN.
I CAN'T FORGIVE...
...WHAT HE TRIED TO DO TO THE PEOPLE OF THE MUD WHALE.
BUT...
...THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT THE AMONLOGIANS SHOULD LOSE THEIR DUKE.

SHAR

THUD



DON'T MOVE!!

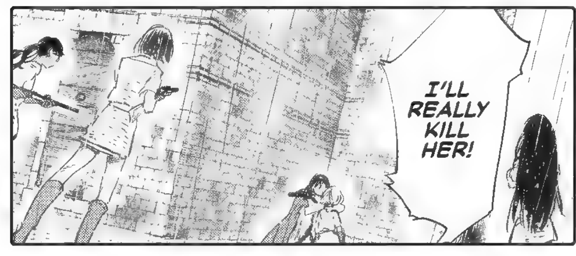

YANK


NO SPELLS EITHER!
LET ME GO!
...
OR I'LL SLIT YOUR COMRADE'S THROAT!
...
PLIP
PLIP


KSSSH


DON'T YOU CARE?

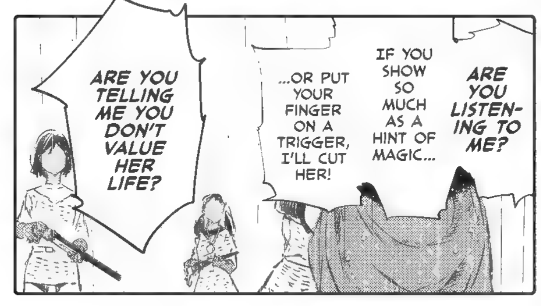

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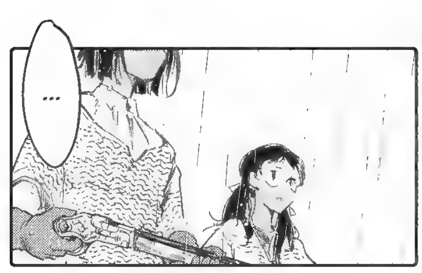
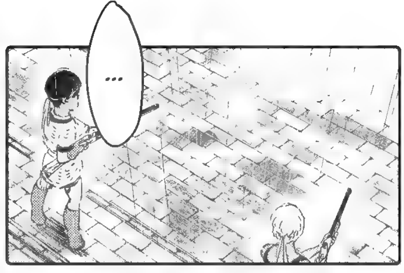
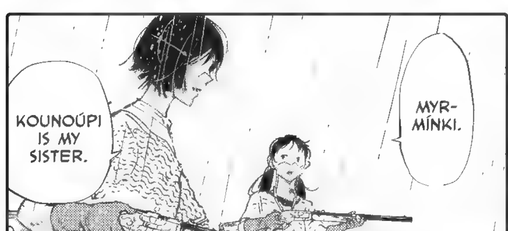

I'LL REALLY KILL HER!


WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?


THE BLADE IS RIGHT AT HER THROAT, SO WE CAN'T GET IT WITH THYMIA.
ORCA'S ORDERS WERE...
...TO KEEP HIM FROM GETTING AWAY.


WE CAN'T LET HIM GO.
YEAH.
WE CAN'T KILL HIM EITHER.


ARE YOU LISTEN-ING TO ME?
IF YOU SHOW SO MUCH AS A HINT OF MAGIC...
...OR PUT YOUR FINGER ON A TRIGGER, I'LL CUT HER!
ARE YOU TELLING ME YOU DON'T VALUE HER LIFE?


...

...

KOUNOÚPI IS MY SISTER.
MYR-MÍNKI.

SHE'S...
...MY SISTER.

SO WHICH IS MORE IMPORTANT ...
...YOUR SISTER OR ORCA'S ORDERS?

I KNOW.

WHAT A CREEPY BUNCH OF KIDS...
THEY HAVE NO FEELING FOR FAMILY.

YOU DON'T *KNOW*?!
SHE'S YOUR SISTER!

I DON'T KNOW.

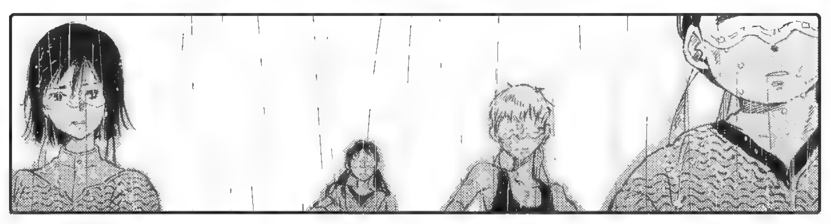


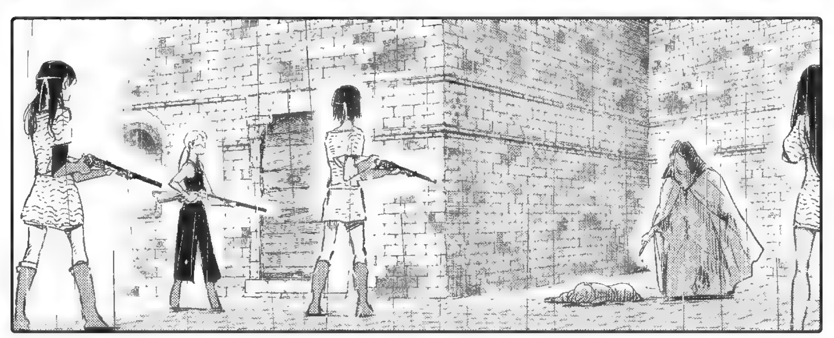
!!

SHINK

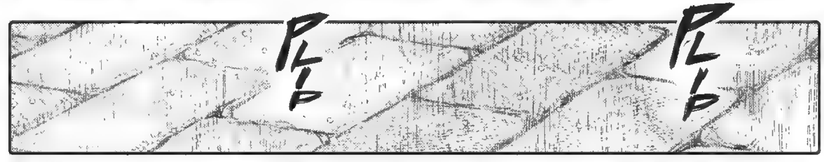
HYUU

THUD

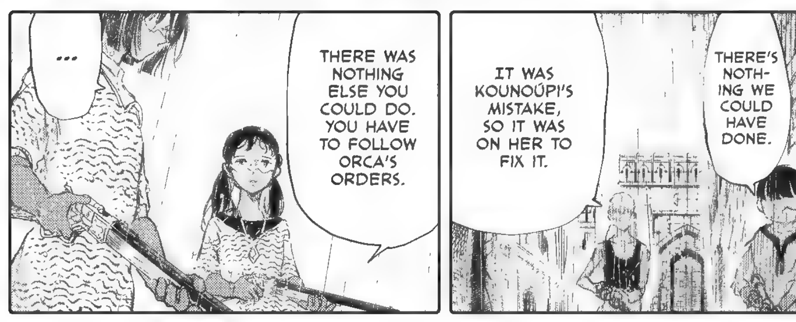







PLIP
PLIP


HOW DOES THIS HAPPEN...?
A GIRL LIKE THIS... ON HER OWN.


THERE'S NOTHING WE COULD HAVE DONE.
IT WAS KOUNOÚPI'S MISTAKE, SO IT WAS ON HER TO FIX IT.
THERE WAS NOTHING ELSE YOU COULD DO. YOU HAVE TO FOLLOW ORCA'S ORDERS.
...


...
CHAK
GASP!
!!
BANG
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
MYRMÍNKI ...
BANG


I DON'T KNOW.
I DON'T KNOW.
THERE'S SOME-THING WRONG WITH MYRMÍNKI.
YOU CAN'T KILL HIM.

SHOULD WE TAKE CARE OF HIM?
HE'S...
...THE STRONGEST OF US ALL.
IF WE FALL APART NOW, WE'RE DOOMED.




BANG





WHAT IS THAT... BALL OF FUR?!
I...
I DON'T KNOW...
...BUT LET'S TAKE CARE OF THE IMPERIALS FIRST...
BANG
BANG


DASH
TAKE THAT!!
CHK
THUMP
TH
WAK

GET THEM!!

BLINDFOLD THEM SO THEY CAN'T USE THEIR THYMIA.

ROGER!

Oh brothers of the speedy feather ...

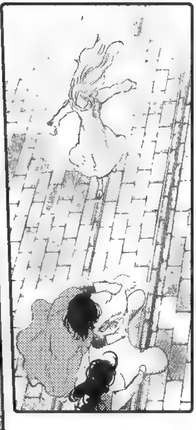

Your vanity is etched...
...at your wretched feet...
?!
...and the insects begin their march again.
FATHER !!
ARE YOU HURT ?!
?!
TH-THAT'S ANTÍCHEIRAS'S FAVORITE FURRY COSTUME...
GRAB


ROCHALÍZO
...!!

ROCHALÍZO ...

ROCHALÍZO, WAKE UP!







ROCHALÍZO, PLEASE WAKE UP.

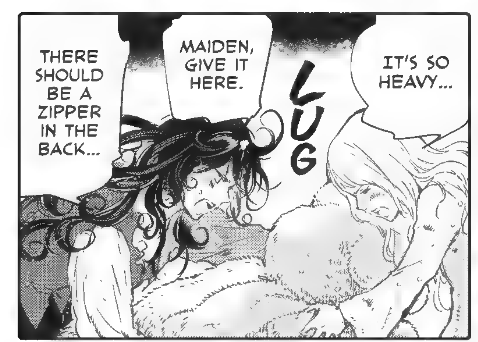
WHY DID YOU DO THIS?

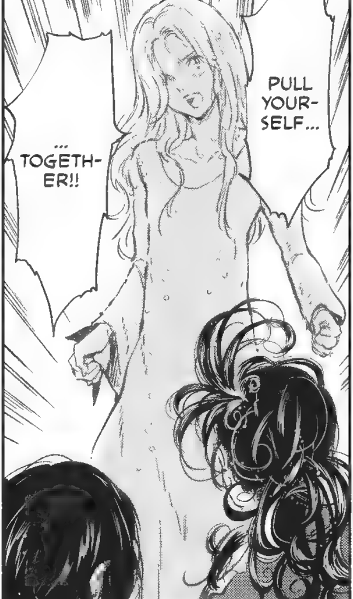
I'VE TREATED YOU SO CRUELLY.




I AM THE MONSTER ...
...WHO LACKS ALL FEELING FOR HIS FAMILY.

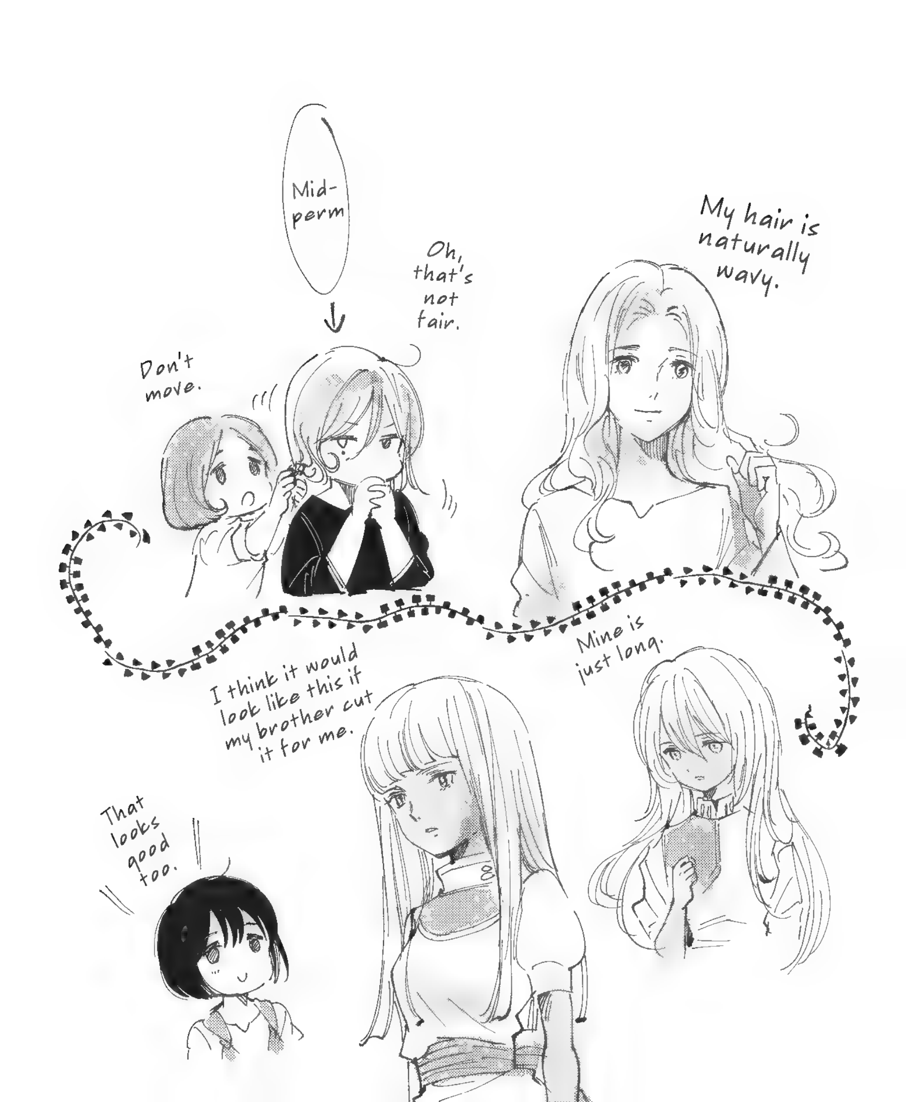

HURRY UP, GET HIM OUT OF THAT COSTUME ...
...AND ADMINISTER FIRST AID.
MAIDEN ...


THERE SHOULD BE A ZIPPER IN THE BACK...
MAIDEN, GIVE IT HERE.
LUG
IT'S SO HEAVY...


PULL YOURSELF...
... TOGETHER!!

!!


Rochalízo has straight hair.
He curls it every day to match Déiktis.
Messy hair means a messy country.
Make it gorgeous.


Mid-perm
Oh, that's not fair.
Don't move.
My hair is naturally wavy.
Mine is just long.
I think it would look like this if my brother cut it for me.
That looks good too.



LOOK, THE BULLET DIDN'T GO THROUGH!

ROCHA-LÍZO...

WAKE UP!

KLAKATA

...

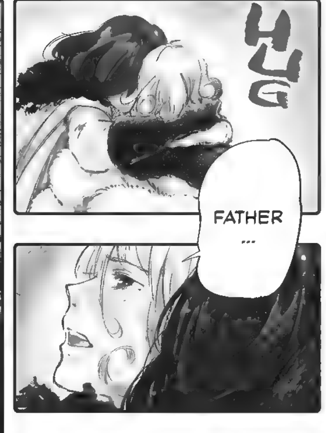
THIS COS-TUME...

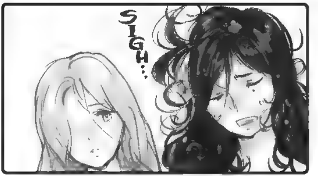
...IS BULLET-PROOF.


Chapter 54
Road of Sand,
Road of Return


BLINK


ROCHA-
LÍZO!!


HUG
FATHER
...

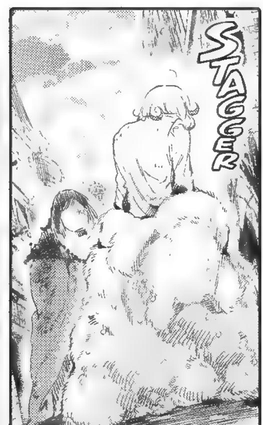

SIGH...


YOU'RE ALIVE ...?
I'M SO GLAD.
THE COSTUME WAS HEAVY...
...SO IT TOOK A WHILE TO FIND YOU.


BUT ANTÍCHEIRAS INSISTED THAT I WEAR IT.
NEVER MIND.


OUR BROTHER IS SUCH A SCAREDY-CAT...
...BUT I GUESS HE WANTED TO PROTECT YOU. HIS FUSSING SAVED YOU.




STAGGER


THUD

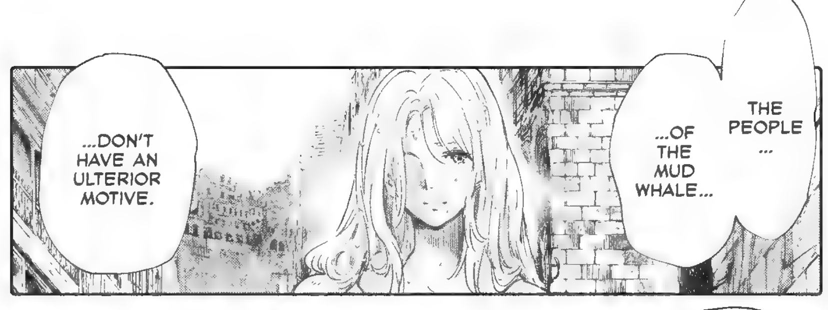

FATHER!!

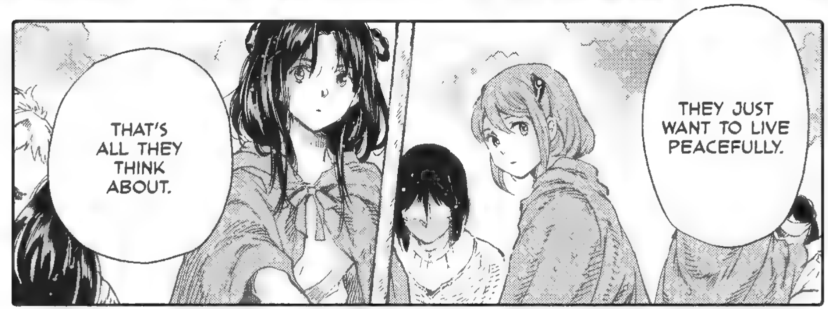




I WANTED...
...YOUR APPROVAL, FATHER.
THAT WAS ALL...
AND BE-CAUSE OF THAT...
...I BETRAYED THE FRIENDS I MET ON THE SEA OF SAND.


BUT...
...IT WAS ALL WRONG.
I WAS WRONG TO THINK I WAS ONLY SEARCHING...
...FOR YOUR TRUST AND LOVE.
MY FATHER, MY BROTHERS, MY PEOPLE...
THEY JUST NEED TO BE HERE.
THEY JUST NEED TO BE FREE TO LIVE HAPPY LIVES.
ALL I NEEDED TO DO WAS HELP CONTRIBUTE TO THAT.





THEY WERE SO BRIGHT...

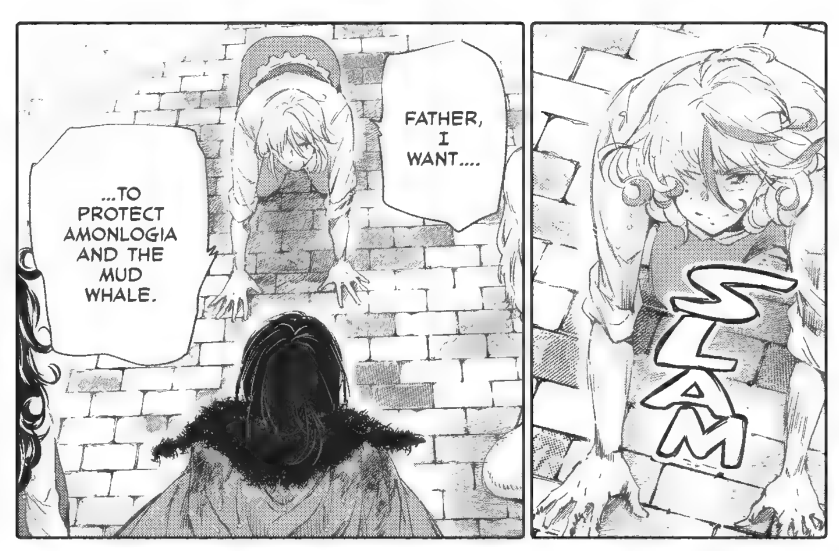
IF I HAD BEEN LIKE THAT...

...I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN BURDENED WITH FRUSTRATION AND IRRITATION ALL THIS TIME.

I DON'T WANT ANYTHING...

...ANYMORE.

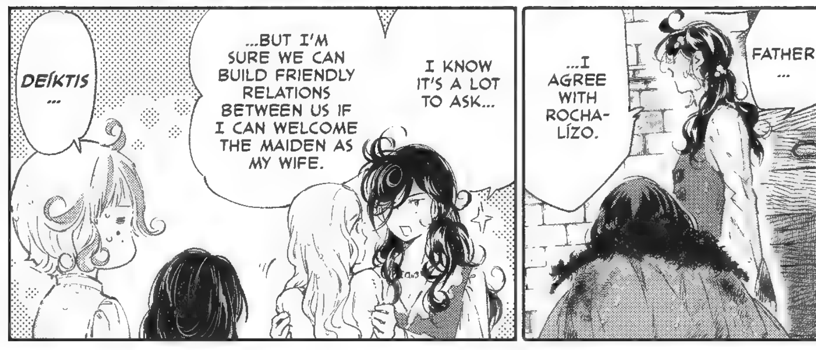



FATHER, I WANT....
...TO PROTECT AMONLOGIA AND THE MUD WHALE.
SLAM


THAT COUNTRY IS THE ONLY ENEMY.
BUT WE DON'T HAVE TIME...
...FOR THESE UNPRODUCTIVE CONFLICTS!


LET'S FIGHT TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE OF AMONLOGIA...
...SIDE BY SIDE WITH THE CITIZENS OF THE MUD WHALE UNTIL AID ARRIVES FROM SUIDELASIA.
AND WHEN WE'VE SECURED THE COUNTRY...
...LET'S LET THE PEOPLE OF THE MUD WHALE SETTLE HERE.




FATHER ...
...I AGREE WITH ROCHA-LÍZO.
I KNOW IT'S A LOT TO ASK...
...BUT I'M SURE WE CAN BUILD FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN US IF I CAN WELCOME THE MAIDEN AS MY WIFE.
DEÍKTIS ...

RRip

TUG

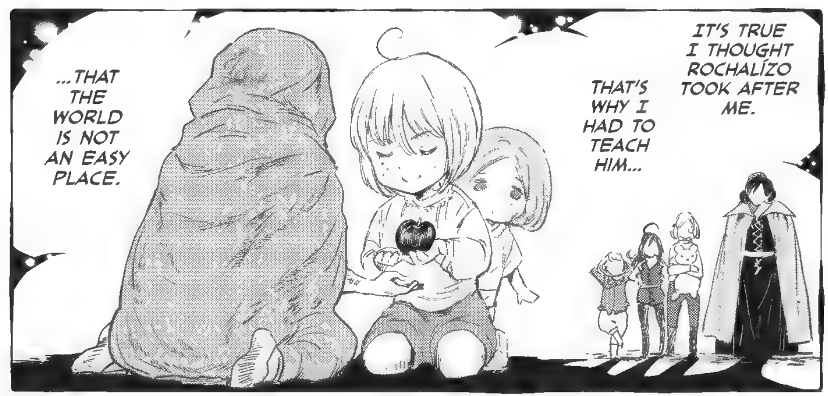
...


THE OLD ME...
...WOULD HAVE WELCOMED YOU IN.
BUT...
...I'M NO LONGER THAT PERSON.


I HAD TO KILL THE GOOD-NATURED PART OF ME...
...IN ORDER TO PROTECT AMONLOGIA.

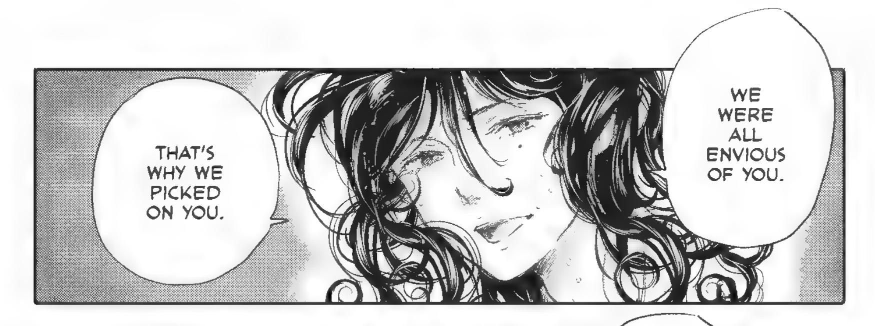

ROCHA-LÍZO...
...I THINK YOU'RE JUST LIKE OUR FATHER WHEN HE WAS YOUNG.


LIKE THE TIME SOME PIRATES HE CAPTURED TOLD HIM A SOB STORY AND HE AND LET THEM GET AWAY.
HE'D GET CARRIED AWAY EASILY, BUT HE WAS KIND.
IT LED HIM TO MAKE MISTAKES.


IT'S TRUE I THOUGHT ROCHALÍZO TOOK AFTER ME.
THAT'S WHY I HAD TO TEACH HIM...
...THAT THE WORLD IS NOT AN EASY PLACE.


FATHER UNDERSTOOD YOUR NATURE BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE.


THAT'S WHY HE WAS EXTRA STRICT WITH YOU.
HE DID APPROVE OF YOU, YOU KNOW.

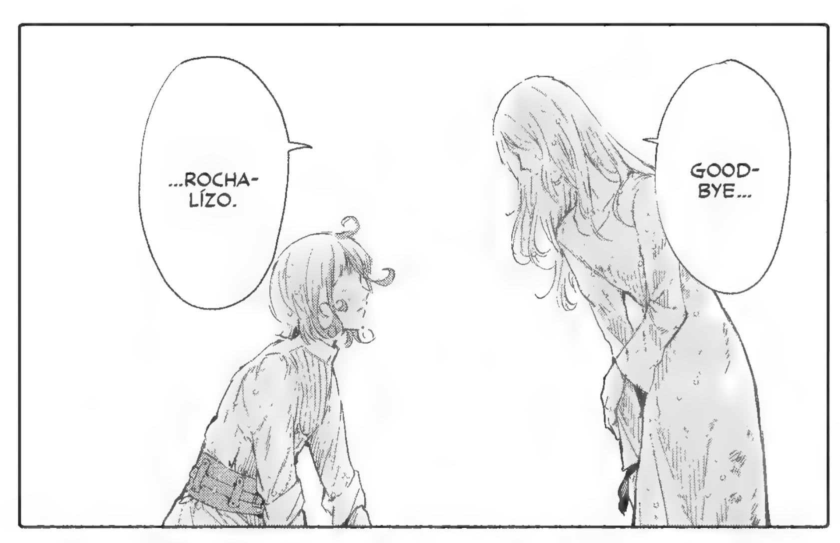


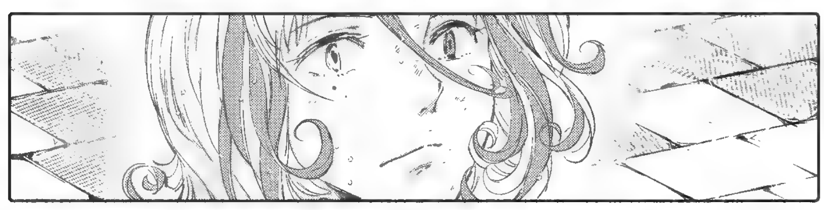
YOU'VE HAD WHAT YOU WANTED...

...FOR A VERY LONG TIME.

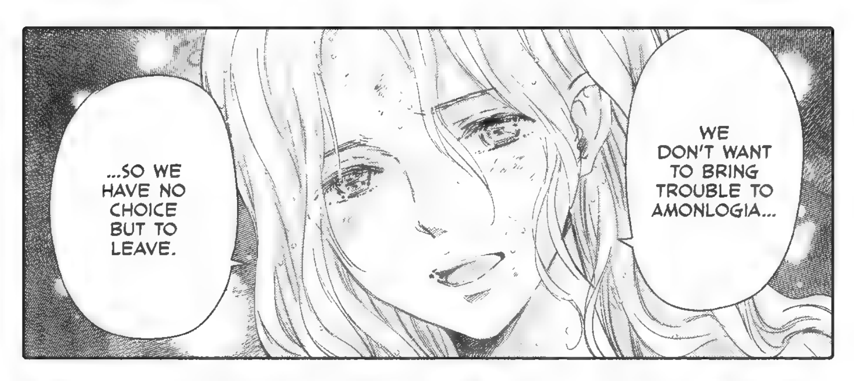
ROCHALÍZO ...
I STILL THINK I WAS RIGHT.
I MUST BE STRICT FOR THE SAKE OF AMONLOGIA.
I DON'T REGRET THAT, AND I CAN'T PROMISE TO BRING THEM IN AS EQUALS.

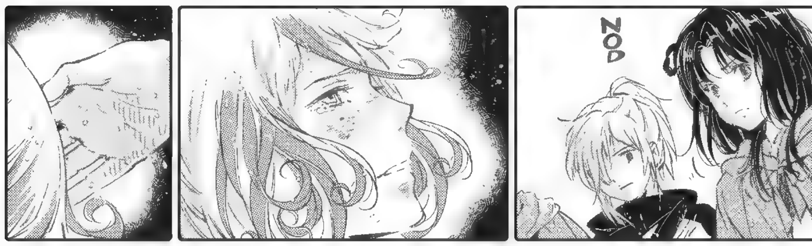



GOOD-BYE...
...ROCHA-LÍZO.




WE ARE THE TARGET OF THE IMPERIAL COMMANDER, AFTER ALL.
HE IS THE REASON WE ARE ALL FIGHTING RIGHT NOW.
EVEN IF WE GET THROUGH THIS...
...THE EMPIRE WILL COME AGAIN, AS LONG AS WE'RE HERE.


WE DON'T WANT TO BRING TROUBLE TO AMONLOGIA...
...SO WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO LEAVE.


NOD



I GUESS THE SAND ROADS ARE THE ONLY OPTION.

THE MOST INCON-SPICUOUS ROUTE IS...

HUH?

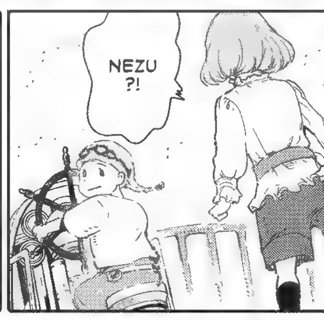
THE GÍGANTAS SISTERS!!

DÓNTI ...!!

CHAS-
MOURITÓ
?!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE...?
AND WITH A BOAT, WHAT PERFECT TIMING!
I THOUGHT WE'D NEED A BOAT TO HELP THE MUD WHALERS GET AWAY.
AND THIS SAND ROAD SEEMED LIKE THE BEST WAY.
FTÉRNA!
MMF
CHAS-
MOURITÓ IS ON LORD DÁCHTYLA'S SIDE.



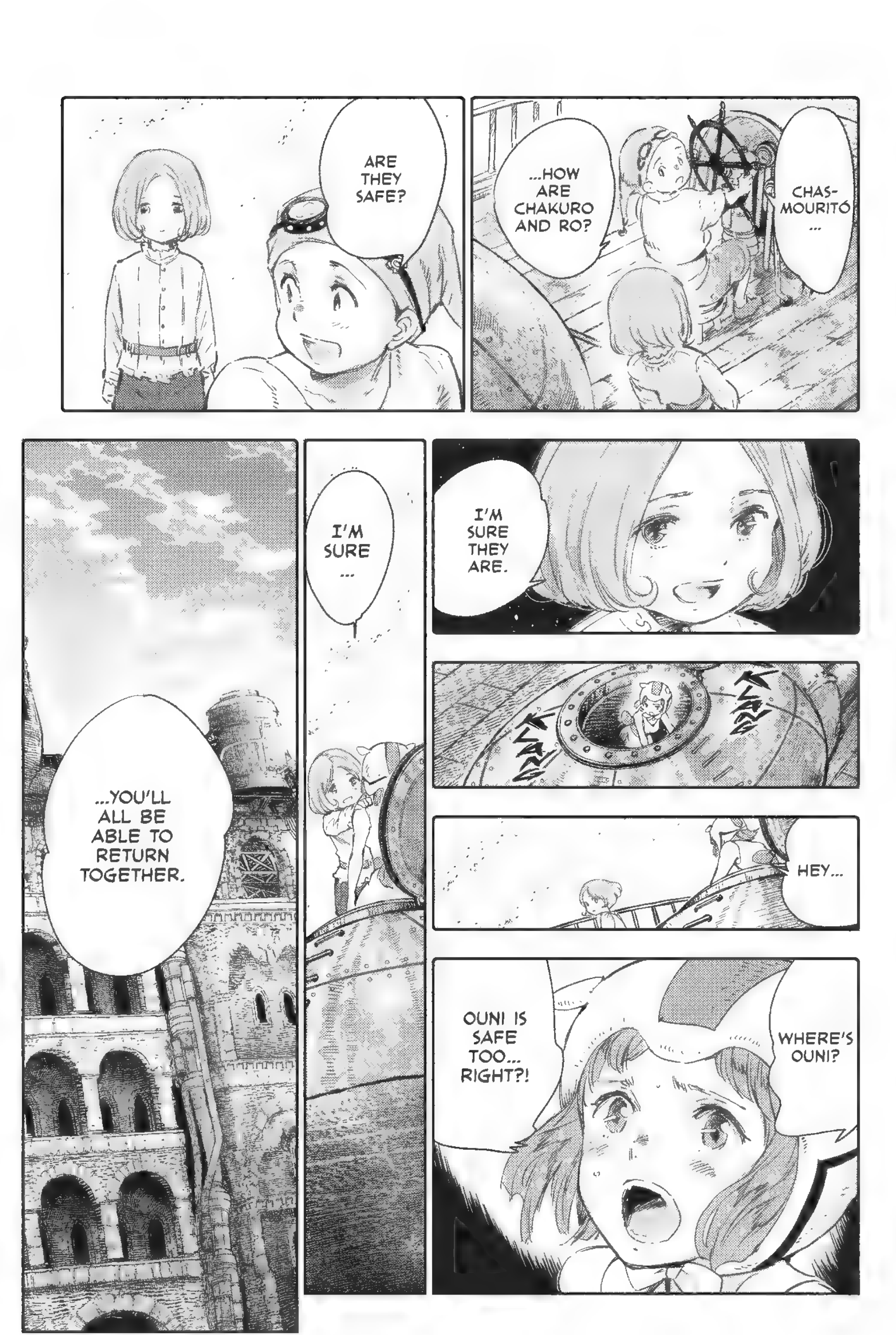

OH, YOU WERE THINKING THE SAME THING.
COME WITH ME!
THE UNMARKED ARE ALL TOGETHER.
REALLY?!

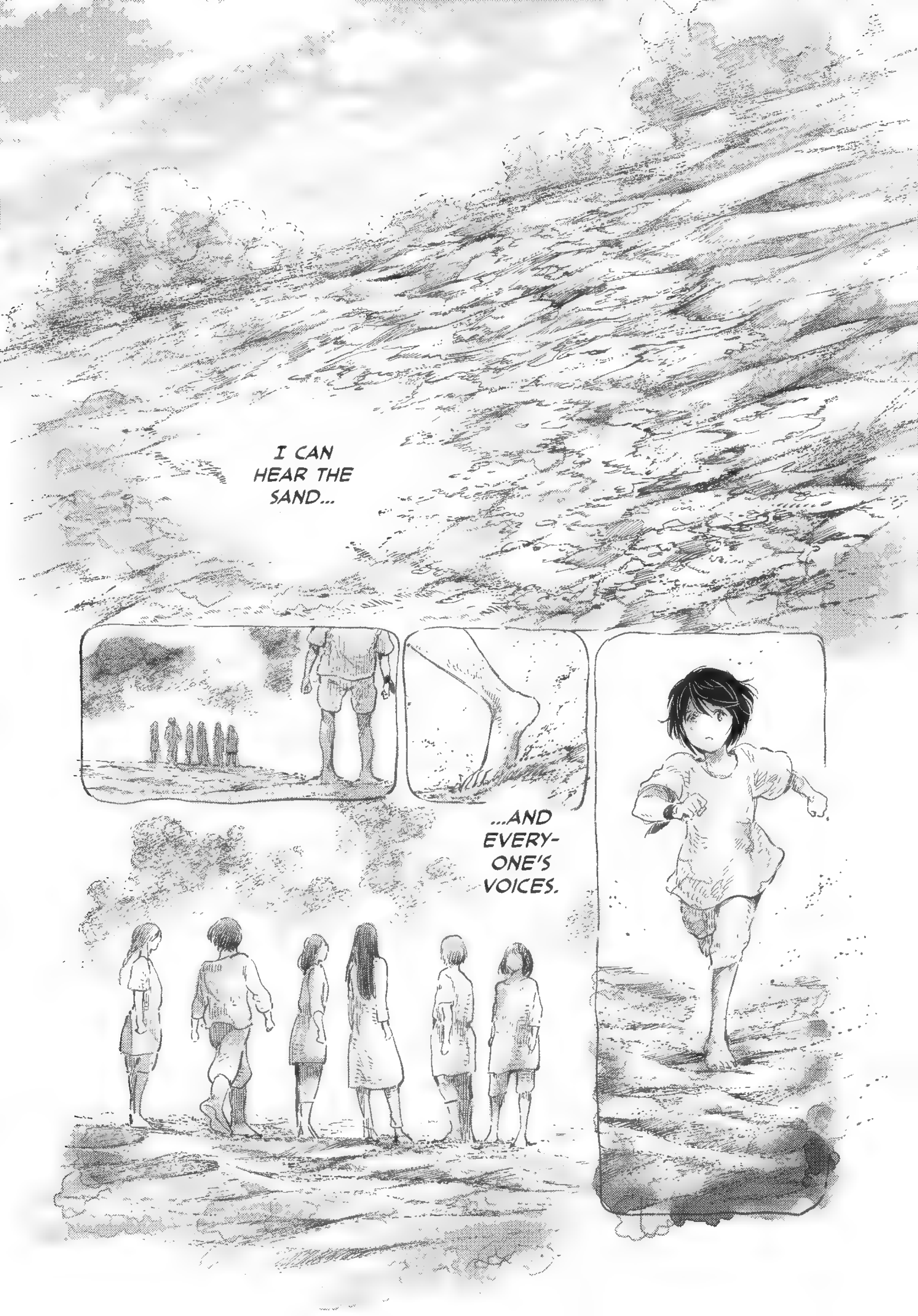

NEZU?!


THEY'RE LETTING ME HELP!
IT'S SO COOL!


JUST WHIZZING ALONG THE OUTSIDE WORLD IN A BOAT LIKE THIS...
IT'S A DREAM COME TRUE FOR ME!


I WISH RO COULD BE HERE.
IF ONLY THINGS WERE DIFFER-ENT...


CHAS-MOURITÓ...
...HOW ARE CHAKURO AND RO?
ARE THEY SAFE?
I'M SURE THEY ARE.
I'M SURE...
...YOU'LL ALL BE ABLE TO RETURN TOGETHER.
KLANG
KLANG
HEY...
WHERE'S OUNI?
OUNI IS SAFE TOO... RIGHT?!


I CAN HEAR THE SAND...
...AND EVERY-ONE'S VOICES.



WHO ...
...IS THAT?
WHOSE ...
...MEMORY IS THIS?
GRAB
CLENCH
WHOSE RECORDS ARE THESE?
!
CLENCH


OH...
THIS...
CLENCH
...IS MY RECORD.
THE SAND EXILE...
YEAR 93 OF THE SAND EXILE.
RO?
Sorry, Chakuro...
...He was...


COM-
MANDER?
IT'S
OKAY...
...I CAN
WALK BY
MYSELF.



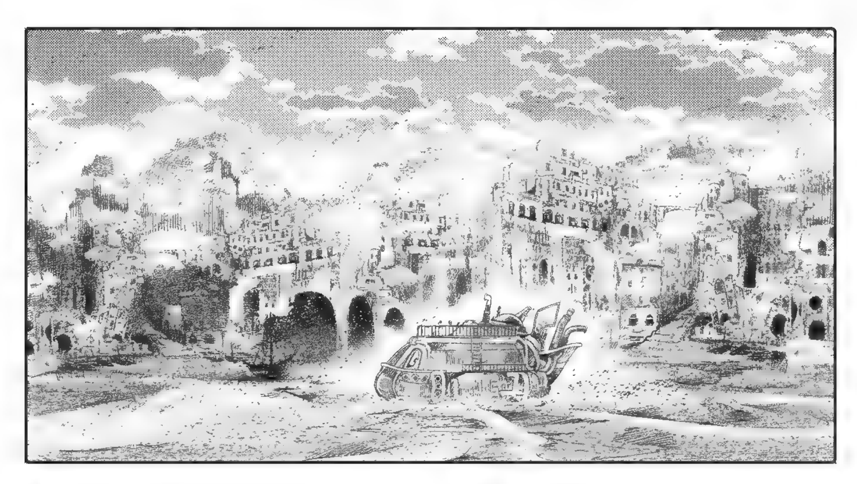


Day 26, month 11, year 93 of the Sand Exile.

The Unmarked who went to Amonlogia to negotiate...

...and the covert infiltration team that went in to rescue them...

...escaped Amonlogia together on Dónti's boat prototype.



We had the bodies of the two Unmarked who had died on Amonlogia.

But not all could return with us.

Mud Whale

Karcharías

Dónti's boat

Headed towards the Mud Whale, which is on a course to intercept the enemy battleship.


Ouni and...
... Lykos ...
...were left behind.

...I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU LET KARCHARÍAS TAKE SO MUCH DAMAGE.

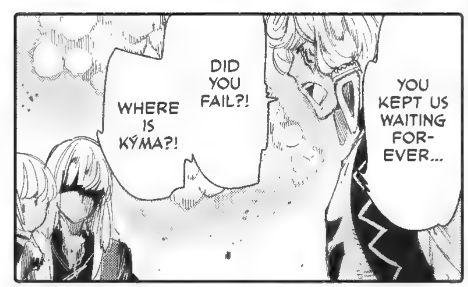
!!

BROÚTZOS ...

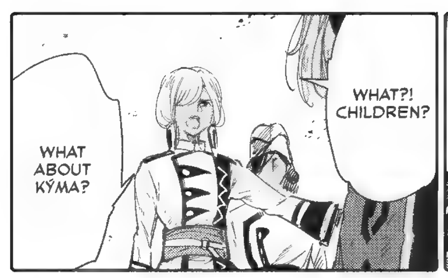

YOU'RE BACK.




WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?


YOU KEPT US WAITING FOR-EVER...
DID YOU FAIL?!
WHERE IS KÝMA?!

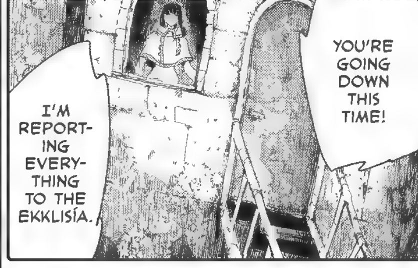



WHAT ABOUT KÝMA?
WHAT?! CHILDREN?


CALL SOME DECK-HANDS TO HELP.
TWO CHILDREN.
THERE'S MORE TO BRING UP...


LION-TARI...
...HOLD ME UP.
WHAT HAPPENED? DID YOU ACCOMPLISH YOUR MISSION?
TROMP
TROMP
WE CAN'T WAIT ANY LONGER.

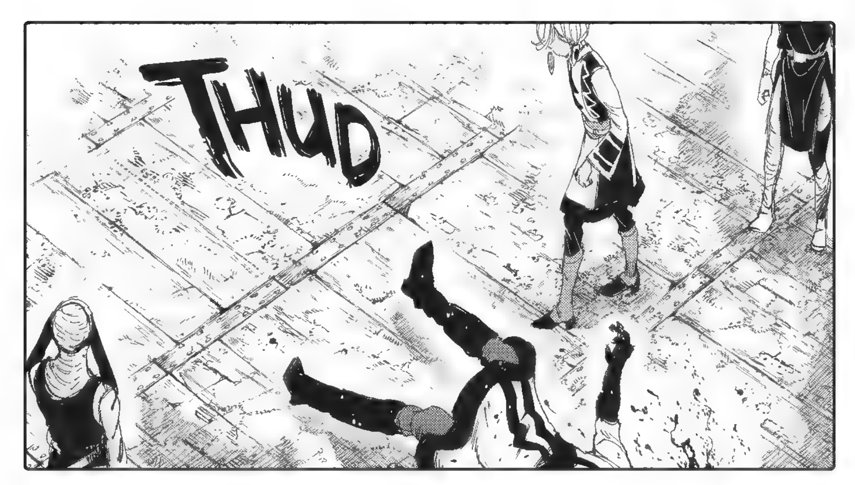

AND AFTER YOU TOOK THIS SHIP FROM MY UNCLE...
YOU'VE RUN OUT OF EXCUSES NOW.
DID YOU FAIL AGAIN?

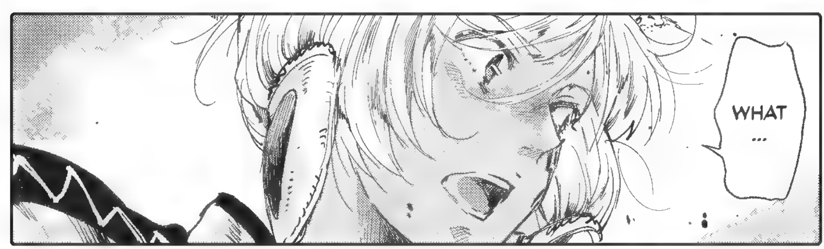

I'M REPORT-ING EVERY-THING TO THE EKKLISÍA.
YOU'RE GOING DOWN THIS TIME!


ORCA...

BANG




THUD

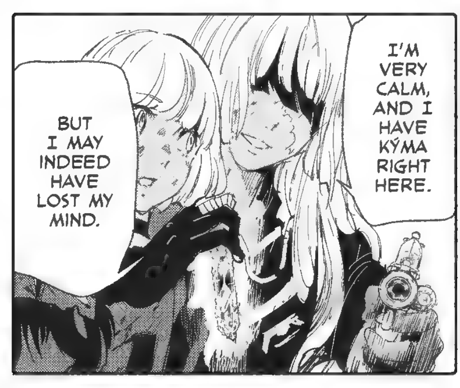

WHAT
...


WH...
WHA...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!


HA...
HAVE...


NO...
BROÚTZOS!!


HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND...
...ORCA ?!


I'M VERY CALM, AND I HAVE KÝMA RIGHT HERE.
BUT I MAY INDEED HAVE LOST MY MIND.


LISTEN UP, EVERY-ONE.

AS OF TODAY, WE ARE NO LONGER CITIZENS OF THE EMPIRE.

WE ARE DECLARING OUR INDEPENDENCE...

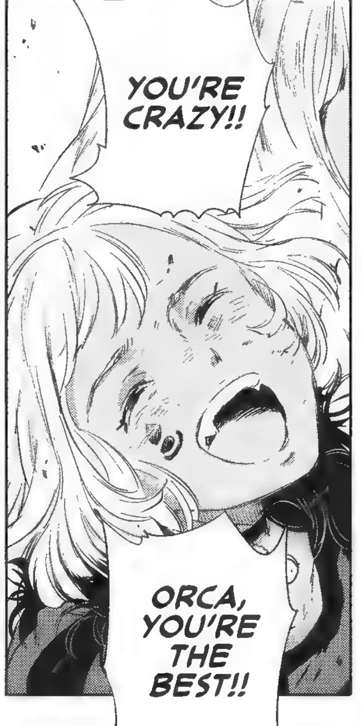
...AND THE BATTLESHIP KARCHARÍAS WILL BE OUR HOMELAND!

Road of Sand, Road of Return -The End-


Chapter 55
Goodbye,
Amonlogia


AS OF TODAY, WE ARE NO LONGER CITIZENS OF THE EMPIRE.
WE ARE DECLARING OUR INDE-PENDENCE, AND THE BATTLESHIP KARCHARIAS WILL BE OUR HOMELAND!
AND NOW WE WILL BEGIN A NEW VOYAGE AND A NEW MISSION!
HEH HEH HEH...

HA HA HA HA HA HA!!










ARREST HIM!
HE'S OBVIOUSLY INSANE...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "WE ARE DECLARING OUR INDEPENDENCE"? YOU AREN'T MAKING ANY SENSE.
DO YOU THINK THERE ARE NO CONSEQUENCES...
...FOR KILLING A MAN AS A JOKE?
BANG
YOU TRAITOR !!
THIS SHIP IS CONTROLLED ...
...BY MY LOYAL SOLDIERS.
OWWW ...!


PEOPLE WHO HAVE GIVEN THEIR HEARTS TO THE NOUSES...
...WILL OBEY THEIR MASTER NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS.
AND CHALKÓS, YOU ARE *NOT* THEIR MASTER.
I AM.
ARE YOU...
...SERIOUS?
WAIT.
WAIT...
WAIT!
K...
KILLING ME DOES YOU NO FAVOR.
...





I PLAN TO RETURN TO THE EMPIRE...

...AS THE KING OF THIS SHIP.

...

...I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE AFTER...

...BUT ALL THE MORE REASON TO KEEP ME ALIVE...

...SINCE I CAN BE USEFUL TO YOU...

COMMANDER ATSÁLI IS MY UNCLE!

ARE YOU SUGGESTING I KEEP YOU ALIVE AS A HOSTAGE?

HA HA HA HA! KYA

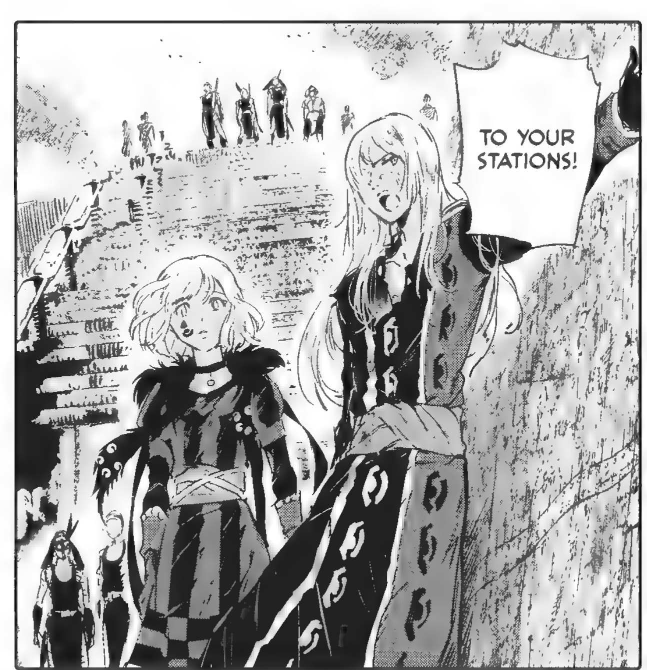
ORCA, IT'S NOT NICE TO MAKE FUN OF HIM.

...

IS YOUR LIFE WORTH SO MUCH THAT YOU'RE WILLING TO DO ANYTHING?

EVEN IF IT PUTS COMMANDER ATSÁLI AT A DISADVANTAGE?





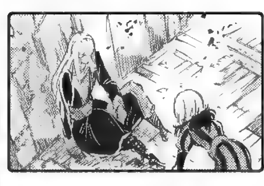
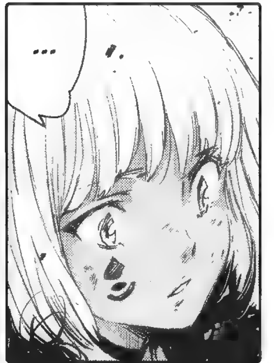


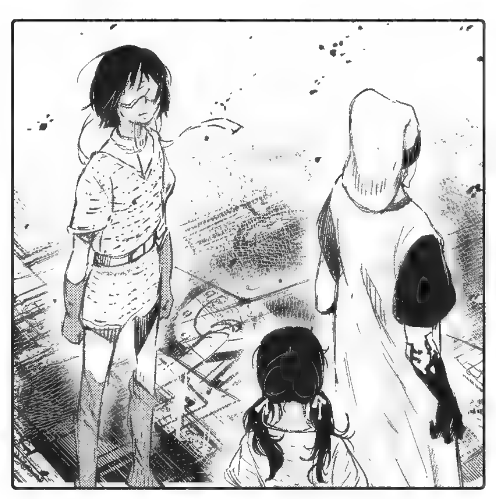


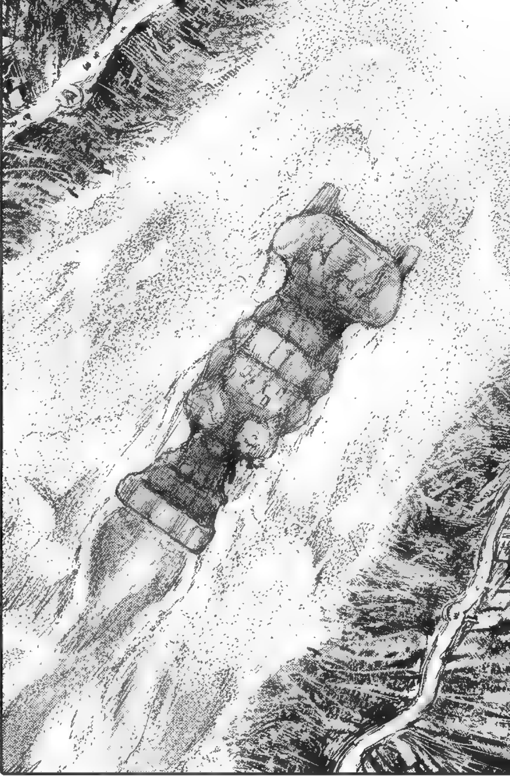
WE'RE GETTING OUT OF THIS SAND ROAD...

...BEFORE REINFORCE-MENTS ARRIVE FROM SUIDELASIA!



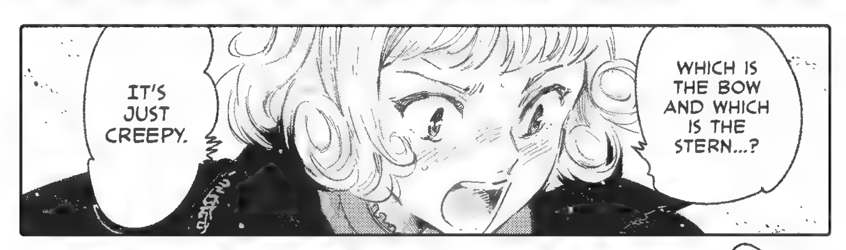
I THINK SOMETHING IS WRONG WITH YOUR LEG...
...AND YOU'RE BURNING UP.
I'LL GET ITIÁ, OKAY?


...

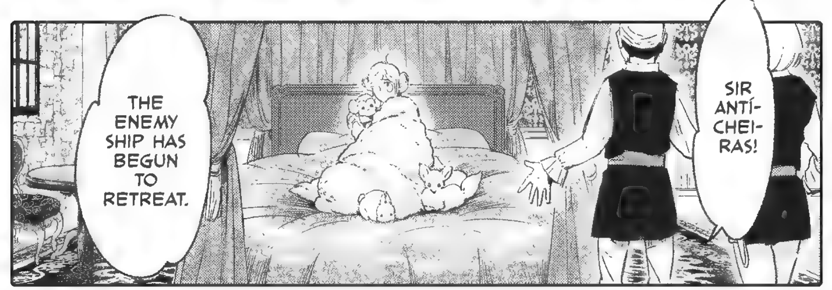
KLANG



WSSH


?!
WHAT ?!
NOW IT'S *RE-TREAT-ING*?

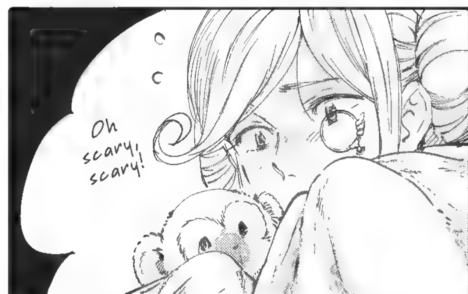

WHICH IS THE BOW AND WHICH IS THE STERN...?
IT'S JUST CREEPY.


SIR ANTÍ-CHEI-RAS!
THE ENEMY SHIP HAS BEGUN TO RETREAT.


THE SUIDELASIAN NAVY SHOULD BE ON ITS WAY TO HELP US.
I SENT A MESSENGER.
I LEAVE THE REST TO YOU.


FATHER IS ALL-CONSUMED WITH PROTECTING THE TREASURE BELOW.

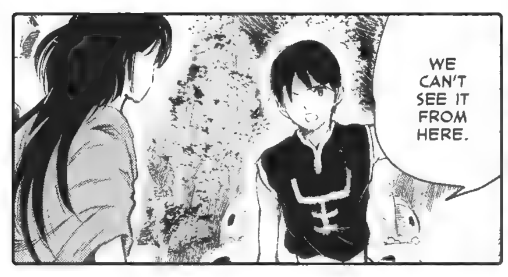

IN TIMES OF CRISIS...
...HE CAN BE SURPRISINGLY CHEEKY—I MEAN SHREWD.

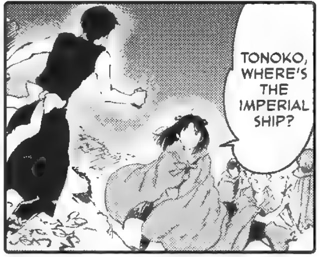

Oh scary, scary!

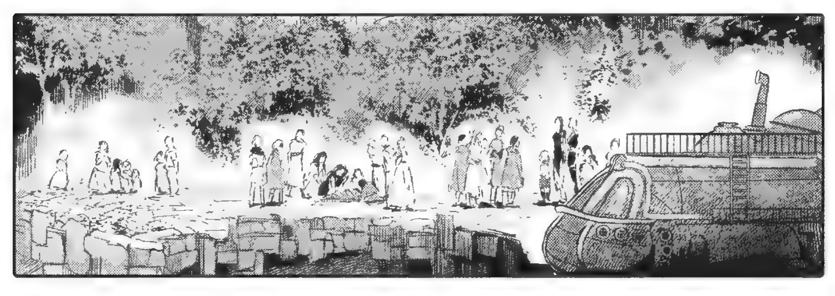
As the sun set...
...Dónti's little boat carrying the infiltration team and the Unmarked...
...docked at the Mud Whale.

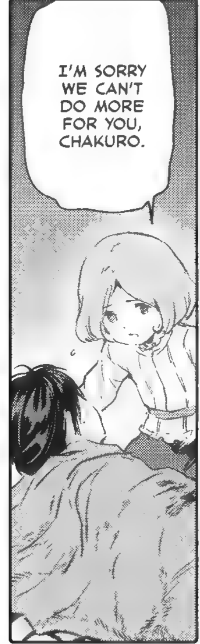
HURRY AND GET CHAKKI AND THE COM-MANDER TO THE INFIRMARY.
YES, MA'AM!

I'M SO SORRY WE MADE YOU WORRY, FURANO.
I'M SORRY ABOUT...
...NASHIJI.

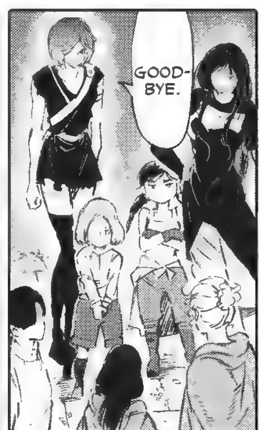

WE CAN'T SEE IT FROM HERE.


TONOKO, WHERE'S THE IMPERIAL SHIP?



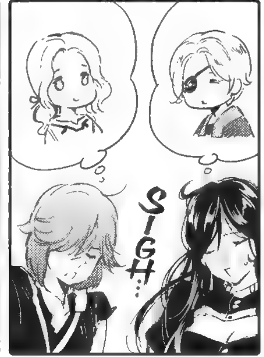

I'M SORRY WE CAN'T DO MORE FOR YOU, CHAKURO.

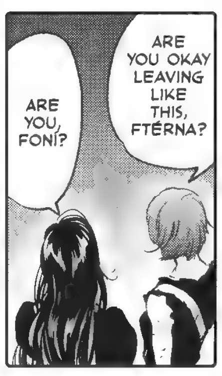

THANK... YOU.

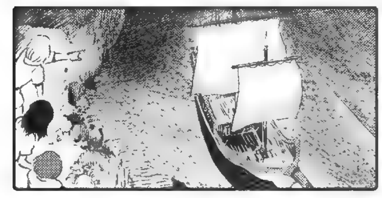

GOOD-BYE.


TH...











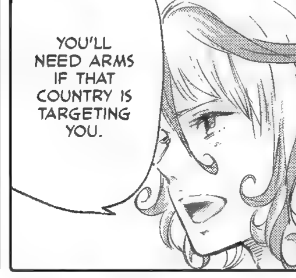
ROCHALÍZO!

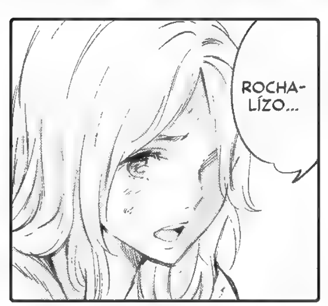
AND UNCLE DUMPLING!


WOW.
ARE YOU GIVING THEM TO US?


GET THESE ON BOARD, QUICKLY.
WHAT ARE THEY?


DUMPLING FOUND ME A BOAT, SO WE MADE IT JUST IN TIME.


YOU'LL NEED ARMS IF THAT COUNTRY IS TARGETING YOU.


ROCHA-LÍZO...



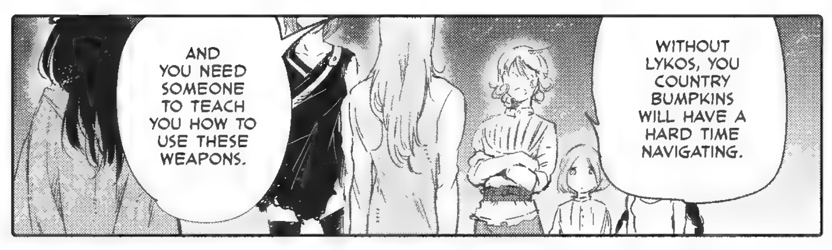

...


...
LET'S GO, ROCHA-LÍZO.
SIR ROCHA-LÍZO!



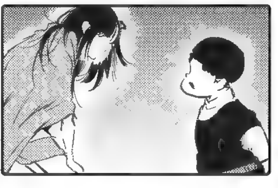
I HAVE MY FATHER'S TRUST NOW.
IT'S... IT'S WHAT I WANTED MOST IN ALL THE WORLD.
I...
BUT DEÍKTIS...
...PEOPLE ARE SELFISH.
AS SOON AS I GOT WHAT MOST WANTED...
...I WANTED SOMETHING MORE.
I...
...I WANT TO SEE THEIR NEW HOME!


LET ME GO WITH YOU!
SIR ROCHA-LÍZO!
...
DO WHATEVER YOU WANT.
H-HOW SELFISH CAN YOU GET?!
I'D LIKE THAT.
ROCHALÍZO.


WITHOUT LYKOS, YOU COUNTRY BUMPKINS WILL HAVE A HARD TIME NAVIGATING.
AND YOU NEED SOMEONE TO TEACH YOU HOW TO USE THESE WEAPONS.


THIS ISLAND IS A TARGET.
HAVE YOU CONSIDERED HOW DANGEROUS IT IS FOR YOU TO BE HERE?

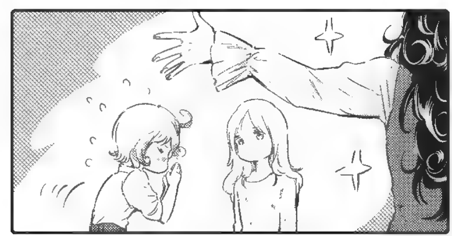

LET ME HELP *FOR REAL* THIS TIME.

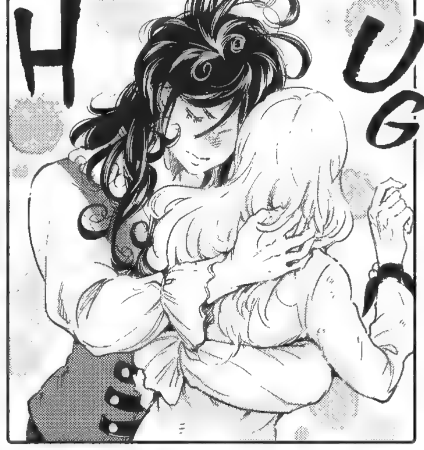



THE NEXT TIME YOU COME TO AMONLOGIA, I'LL MAKE SURE YOU ARE WELCOMED!


THANKS.
HUG
WE'LL COME VISIT SOMEDAY, UNCLE.






HUG


I KNOW...
...THERE'S A SPECIAL GIRL IN YOUR LIFE.

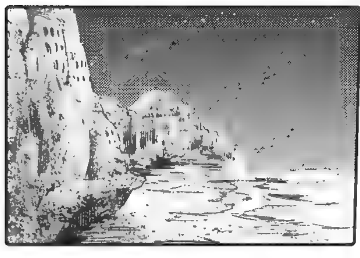

YOU ALWAYS WEAR HER HAIR RIBBON.


TAKE CARE OF HER.

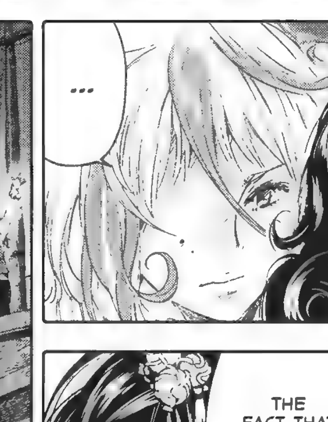

YES...
I'LL TAKE CARE OF HER FOREVER.


I DON'T CARE IF YOU SMELL MILKY, JUST COME HOME.
THUMP







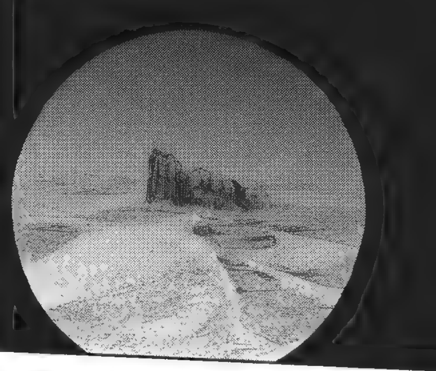

...

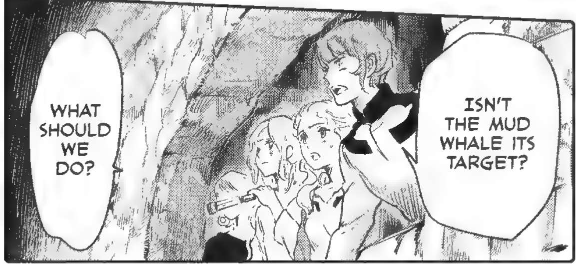

THE FACT THAT YOU'RE NOT ANSWERING MEANS YOUR MIND IS SET.

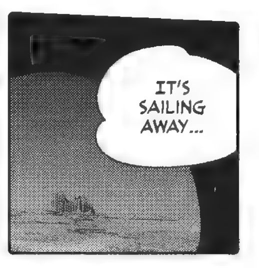

GOODBYE...
...AMONLOGIA.




THAT'S THE IMPERIAL SHIP...
IT'S IN SHADOW.




ISN'T THE MUD WHALE ITS TARGET?
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?


IT'S SAILING AWAY...


WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
GET BACK TO THE INFIRMARY RIGHT NOW.


THEY'RE ON THAT SHIP...


SHUAN.


DON'T LOSE SIGHT OF THAT SHIP.

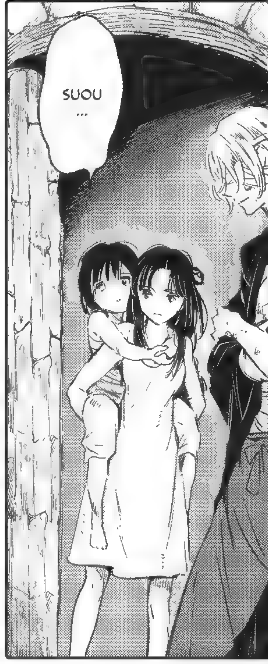

YOU MEAN OUNI AND LYKOS?
DOES THAT MEAN YOU WANT TO GO AFTER THE IMPERIAL SHIP?
IMPOSSIBLE, IT'S SUICIDAL!
THAT KID...
OUNI...
...WAS OUR ACE IN THE HOLE WHEN WE SANK SKYROS.
IF THEY HAVE HIM...
...OUR DESTRUC-TION IS ASSURED.
WE NEED TO GET HIM BACK.
I'LL DO IT.


I WON'T LET YOU DO WHAT-EVER YOU WANT.
I'M SORRY, BUT I'M THE COMMANDER OF THE VIGILANTES NOW.


THAT'S NEWS TO ME.
GINSHU APPOINTED ME.


HUNDREDS OF LIVES ARE ON THE LINE.
WE CAN'T RISK THEM ALL FOR TWO PEOPLE.


YOU'RE RETIRED NOW, SO GO REST.


SUOU ...


CHA-KURO.

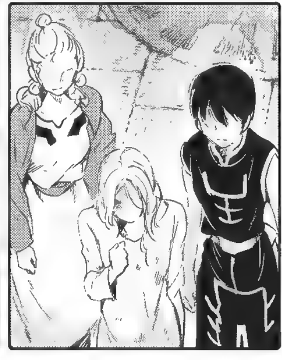

YOU GO REST TOO, CHA-KURO.
WHY DID YOU BRING HIM HERE?

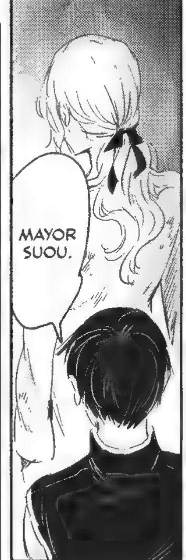

TONOKO, QUIT MAKING ME OUT TO BE THE BAD GUY.
CHAKKI SAID HE HAD TO TALK TO SUOCCHI, SO I BROUGHT HIM.

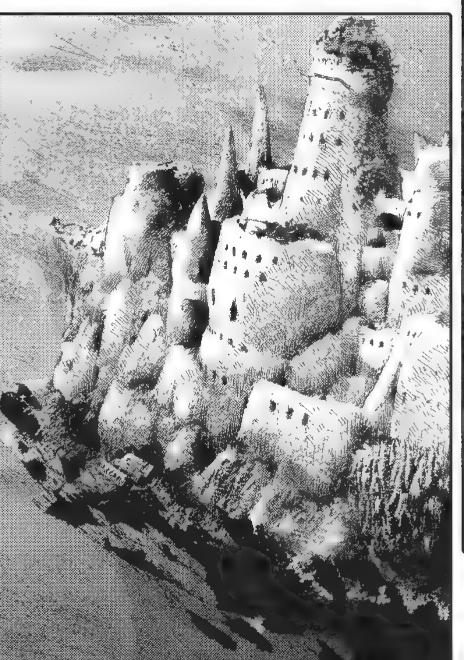

I'LL COME SEE YOU IN THE INFIRMARY.
WE USED SOME OF THAT REALLY GOOD DISINFECTANT ROCHALÍZO GAVE US...
...BUT IF YOU MOVE, YOUR WOUNDS WILL REOPEN.

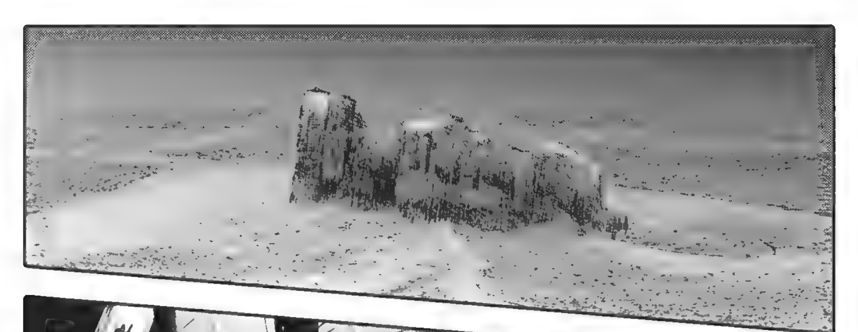

WE NEED TO GET LYKOS AND OUNI BACK.
PLEASE, SUOU.






MAYOR SUOU.



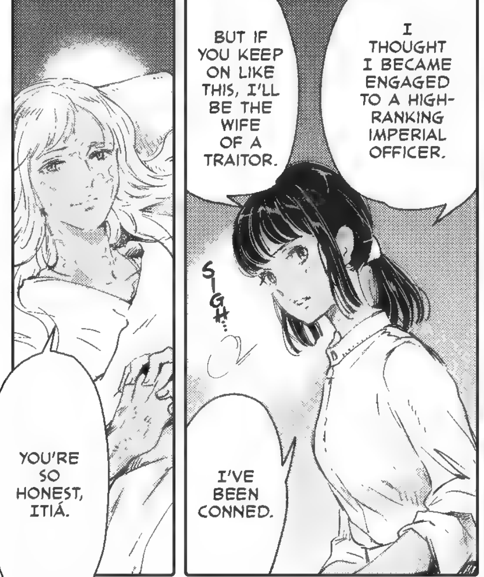


ITIÁ, WILL YOU LOOK AFTER MY SISTER FOR ME?

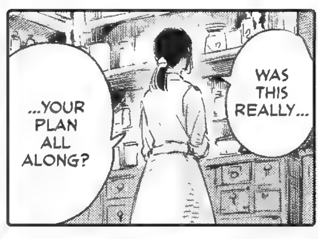
SHE WON'T TALK TO ME OR CHANGE HER CLOTHES.







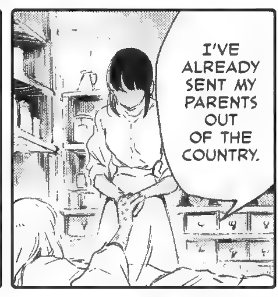

THE DAÍMONAS AND KÝMA...
...AND FÁLAINA.
MY PLAN IS POSSIBLE WHEN I ASSEMBLE THOSE THREE.
I ONLY NEED ONE MORE.


WAS THIS REALLY...
...YOUR PLAN ALL ALONG?


YOU SAID ONCE...
...THAT YOU'D TAKE ÁNTHROPOS FROM THE EMPEROR.


WE ATTACK FÁLAINA NEXT.


I OBTAIN FÁLAINA AND HEAD BACK TO THE EMPIRE.
THE DAÍMONAS... EVEN ÁNTHROPOS CAN BE MANIPULATED IF I USE THAT BLACK-HAIRED BOY.


I'VE ALREADY SENT MY PARENTS OUT OF THE COUNTRY.


WHEN THIS IS ALL OVER, I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO THEM, ITIÁ.


...


YOU DON'T SEEM...
...LIKE YOU'RE POWER HUNGRY.


OF COURSE NOT.
I DON'T NEED IT.


NOK NOK
SIR ORCA.


IT'S KANAVI ...
...COME IN.
HE'S A DOCTOR AND A FRIEND.

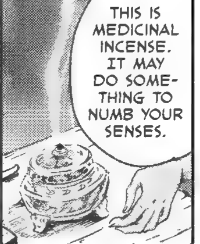

YOU HAVE FRIENDS?
JUST THE ONE.


CREAK


I'VE NEVER SEEN A WOUND LIKE THIS.
WAS IT THE DAÍMONAS?
YOU'VE CERTAINLY BROUGHT AN IRKSOME DEMON ABOARD.
HIS TEMPERATURE IS REALLY HIGH, AND IT WON'T COME DOWN.
IT'S BECAUSE OF THIS WOUND ON HIS LEG.
THE BONE IS EXPOSED, SEE? IT MUST HAVE BECOME INFECTED.


NEVER MIND... JUST AMPUTATE ALREADY.
ALL RIGHT, I HAVE MY TOOLS HERE.


I'M USING THYMIA, SO IT WILL BE QUICK.
WOULD YOU RATHER WAIT OUTSIDE, ITIÁ?
HYUU


THIS IS MEDICINAL INCENSE. IT MAY DO SOMETHING TO NUMB YOUR SENSES.


WELL, IT'S REALLY MORE OF A PLACEBO.
JUST HURRY UP AND DO IT.


NO, I'M FINE.


ORCA...
LET'S JUST RUN AWAY.
WE'LL TAKE KARCHARÍAS AND EVERYONE WITH US.
...


THERE COULD BE A PARADISE AT THE END OF THE SEA OF SAND.

PARADISE?
WHEN IS THERE EVER A PARADISE?

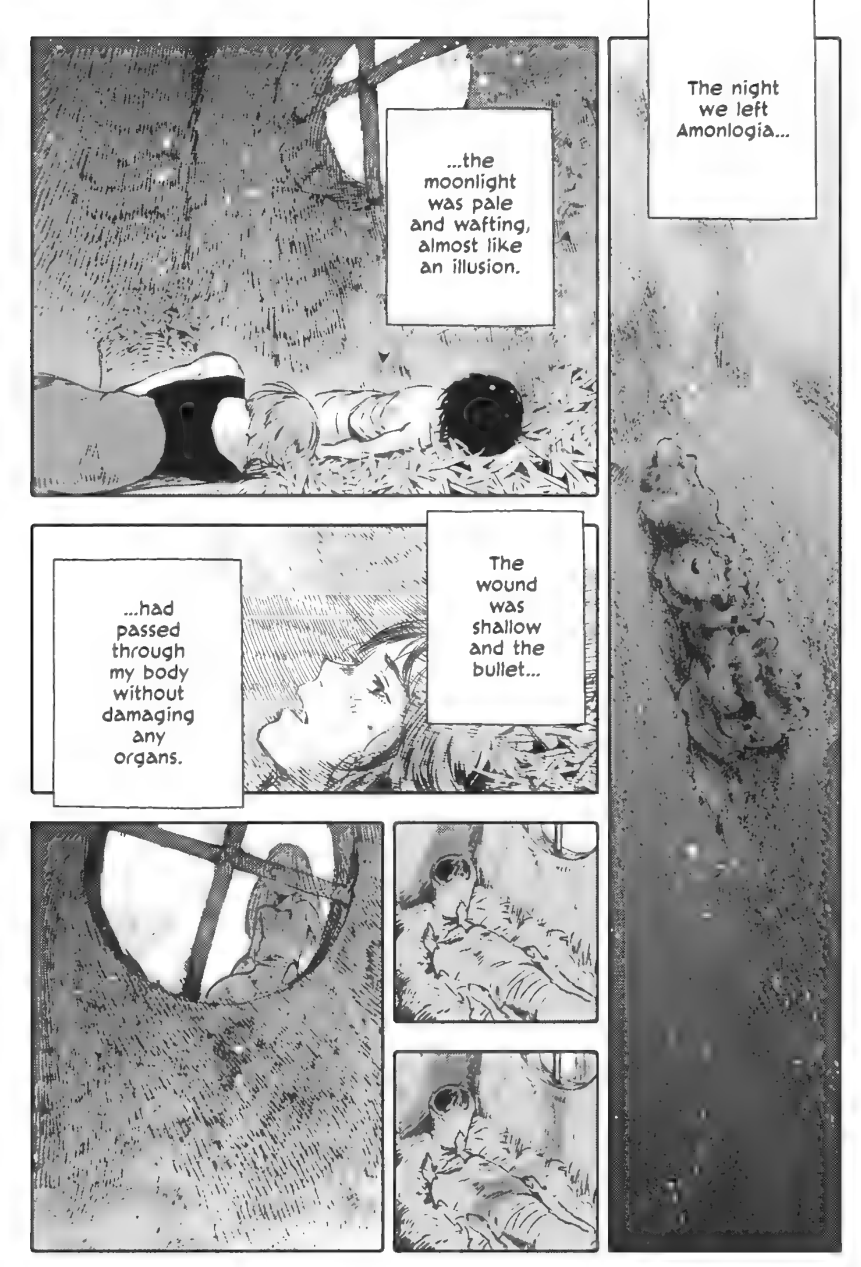




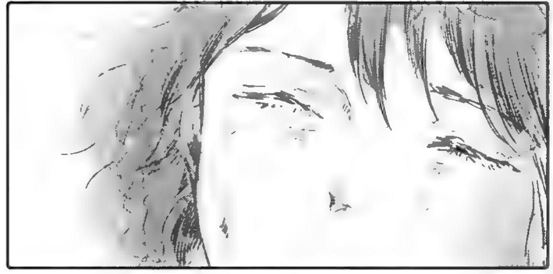




Chapter 56
Dawn of Resolution


The night we left Amonlogia...
...the moonlight was pale and wafting, almost like an illusion.
The wound was shallow and the bullet...
...had passed through my body without damaging any organs.


NERI?
WHO IS THAT ...?



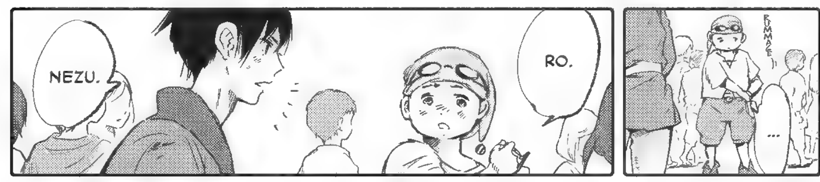

I drifted in and out of consciousness because of the loss of blood.


The next morning the people of the Mud Whale...
...had a very important decision to make.

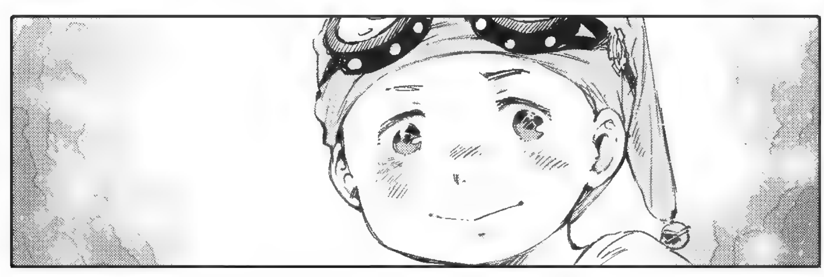



When dawn broke...
...the dead were buried with great care.
Afterward, everyone gathered in the central plaza for a meeting.


CHAKURO, ARE YOU REALLY OKAY?
YEAH.
I REALLY WANT TO HEAR WHAT SUOU HAS TO SAY.

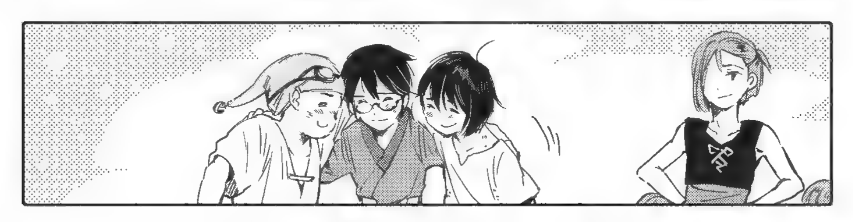

RUMMAGE
...
RO.
NEZU.



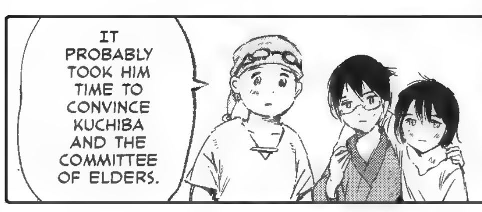


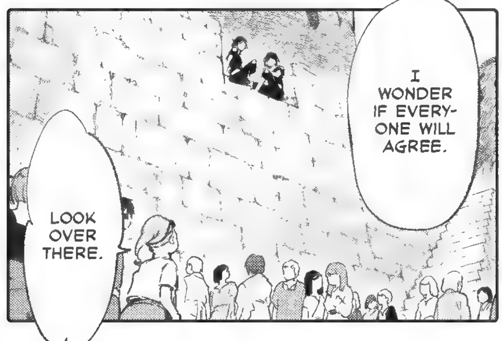


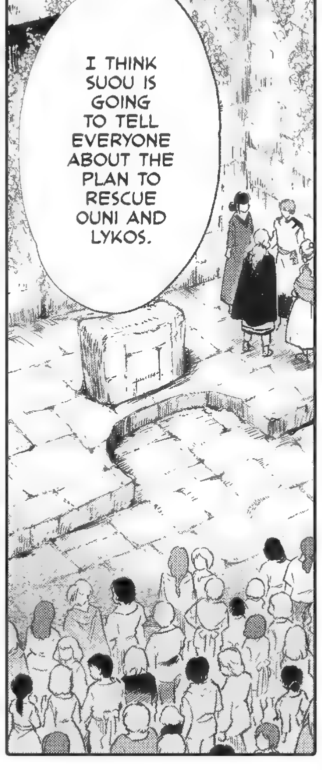

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU MADE THEM SO QUICKLY!
IT TOOK ALL NIGHT. I FIGURED IT WAS REALLY ANNOYING FOR YOU WITHOUT THEM.




SUOU LOOKS LIKE HE STAYED UP ALL NIGHT.
I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT.

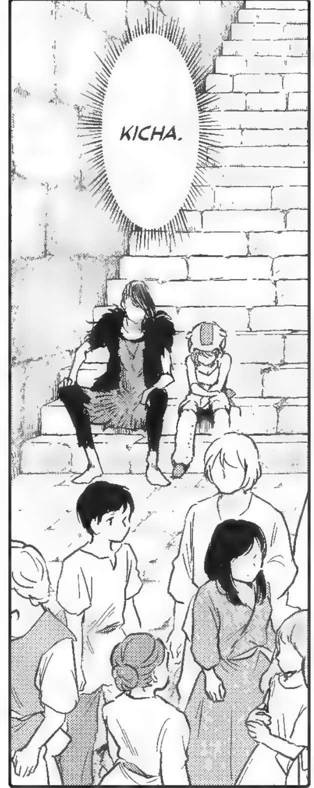

IT PROBABLY TOOK HIM TIME TO CONVINCE KUCHIBA AND THE COMMITTEE OF ELDERS.

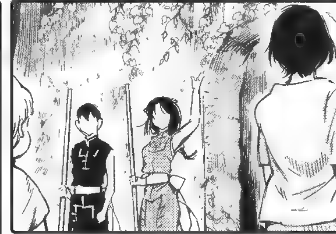

I WONDER IF EVERY-ONE WILL AGREE.
LOOK OVER THERE.


I THINK SUOU IS GOING TO TELL EVERYONE ABOUT THE PLAN TO RESCUE OUNI AND LYKOS.


I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY ACTUALLY CAME TO THE MEETING.


SHIKON AND SHIKOKU.


KICHA.




DEPENDING ON SUOU'S PLAN, THEY'RE PROBABLY PLANNING A RIOT.








GINSHU'S BACK WITH THE VIGILANTES.





NO ONE HAS FORGOT-TEN...

...WHAT THEY'VE DONE FOR THE MUD WHALE.


We have neglected the travelers of time.
We have forever lost the gift to rewind the rapid unfurling of time.
Vines like fingers tie us to a mast of sand and waves...
...while laws and hopes are blown away by the gales.
The migratory bird allows us to forget...
...how far we have come...
...and how far we are going.
FIRST I'D LIKE TO REPORT...
...THAT THE NEGOTIATION WITH AMONLOGIA WAS NOT SUCCESSFUL.
WE HAD TO SAY GOOD-BYE TO SOME VERY SPECIAL PEOPLE...
...AND WE MUST GIVE UP ON SETTLING THERE.



OUR SADNESS AND REGRET KNOW NO BOUNDS...
HOW-EVER...
...WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO LAMENT.
WE MUST ACT.
WE MUST ABANDON THE GOAL...
...OF FINDING A COUNTRY TO TAKE US IN...
SHFF
...BECAUSE NOW WE UNDERSTAND THE BURDEN WE WOULD BE PLACING ON ANY NATION THAT SHELTERED US.
WE MUST LOOK...
... FOR A FERTILE, UNINHABITED LAND...
...CULTIVATE NEW FARMS AND BAMBOO FORESTS...
...AND BUILD OUR LIVES THERE.

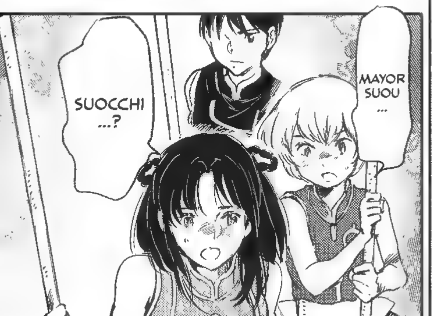
THE MAP THAT ROCHALÍZO GAVE US CONFIRMS...
...THAT THERE IS A CHAIN OF UNOCCUPIED ISLANDS TO THE SOUTHWEST.
THE MUD WHALE WILL SET SAIL IMMEDIATELY...
...TOWARD THOSE ISLANDS.
SHFF
PAH
MAYOR SUOU?!
AREN'T YOU FOR-GETTING SOME-THING?!


OUNI...
WHAT ABOUT RES-CUING OUNI?
SUOU ...
WHAT ABOUT OUNI AND LYKOS?
OUNI AND LYKOS?
SHFF SHFF
WHAT'S GOING ON?
THIS IS OUR FIRST MEETING SINCE WE LEFT AMONLOGIA ...
...SO SOME PEOPLE DON'T KNOW THAT OUNI AND LYKOS HAVE BEEN CAPTURED.
LET ME EXPLAIN.
OUNI AND LYKOS WERE CAPTURED ON AMONLOGIA AND TAKEN AWAY BY THE IMPERIAL BATTLESHIP.

OH NO!
WE CONFIRMED SIGHT OF THE BATTLESHIP IN OPEN SAND...
...AND GAVE PURSUIT.
BUT IT WAS TOO FAST AND SLIPPED OVER THE HORIZON AT DAWN.
IT PAINS ME TO SAY THIS...
...BUT WE MUST GIVE UP ON RESCUING OUNI AND LYKOS...

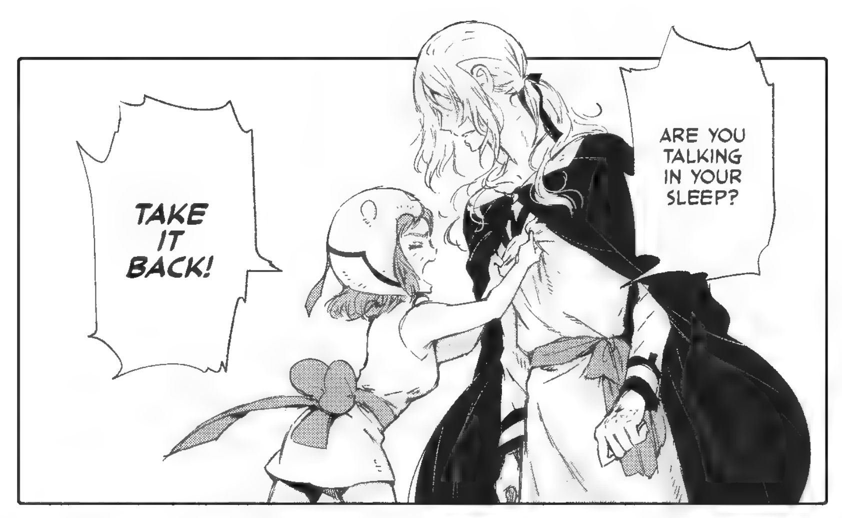











ARE YOU TALKING IN YOUR SLEEP?
TAKE IT BACK!


MAYOR SUOU...
HOW CAN YOU BE THAT COLD?
HOW CAN YOU ABANDON OUNI AND LYKOS?


LISTEN, EVERY-ONE!


THAT BATTLE-SHIP TORE THROUGH AMONLOGIA'S IRON WALLS!
THIS ISLAND IS NO MATCH FOR ITS MIGHT.
IF YOU TRY TO MOUNT A RESCUE, THERE WILL BE CASUALTIES.


B-
BUT...
ROCHA-
LÍZO...
...THANK
YOU.
EVERY-
ONE...
...PLEASE
LISTEN.
GULP
THERE IS
ANOTHER
REASON
WE ARE
PRIORITIZING
FINDING NEW
LAND.
IT
IS TO
SAVE...
...ALL
YOUR
LIVES.

THIS MUD WHALE...

...IS EATING THE MARKED.




IT IS...
...A DEATH SENTENCE PASSED ON THE CITIZENS OF THE MUD WHALE A LONG, LONG TIME AGO.
AND WE WILL NEVER BE FREE FROM THAT CURSE AS LONG AS WE ARE ON THIS ISLAND.
WHAT ...?

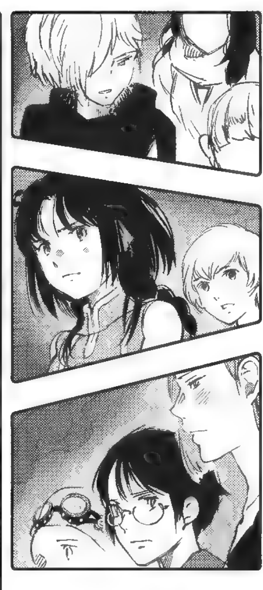

SILENCE
SHE
I'M SORRY I'VE KEPT THE TRUTH FROM YOU ALL THIS TIME.
I BELIEVED AMONLOGIA WAS THE PROMISE OF A NEW HOME...
...AND I DIDN'T...
...WANT TO CAUSE YOU EXTRA FEAR OR ANXIETY, SO I SAID NOTHING.
YES...
...OUNI AND LYKOS ARE VERY DEAR TO US.
BUT...
...GOING AFTER THEM WILL PROLONG OUR TIME ON THIS ISLAND.


WE... CANNOT ...
...WASTE ANY MORE TIME.

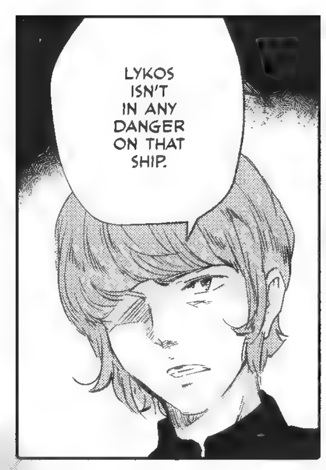
MRMR
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
IT CAN'T BE TRUE.
MRMR
CHA-KURO!
IT'S *NOT* A WASTE OF TIME...
OUNI AND LYKOS FOUGHT FOR ALL OF US...


THEY RISKED THEIR LIVES FOR US...
...SO WE CAN RISK OUR LIVES FOR THEM.
I DON'T CARE IF IT SHORTENS OUR LIVES!
SHFF
CHA-KURO ...
BESIDES ...
...WE WERE HAPPY HERE...
...BEFORE THE EMPIRE ATTACKED.
OUR SHORT LIVES DIDN'T CHANGE THAT.
WE LIVED AS MUCH AS WE COULD FOR AS LONG AS WE COULD...
...EVEN THOUGH WE KNEW OUR TIME WAS LIMITED.

IT'S WORSE TO ABANDON OUR FRIENDS!





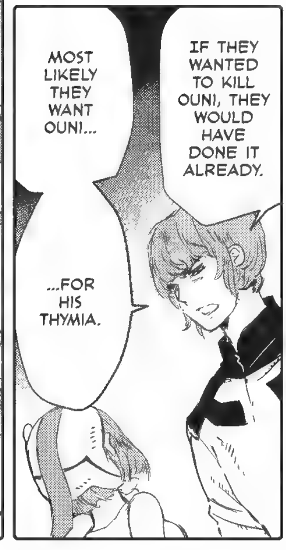

LYKOS ISN'T IN ANY DANGER ON THAT SHIP.

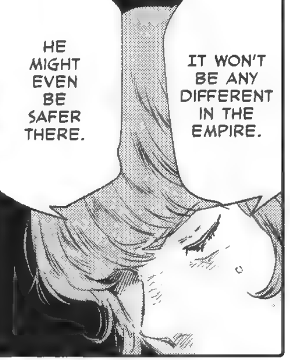

LYKOS IS A CITIZEN OF THE EMPIRE.
AND HER BROTHER IS THE COMMANDER OF THAT BATTLESHIP, ISN'T HE?

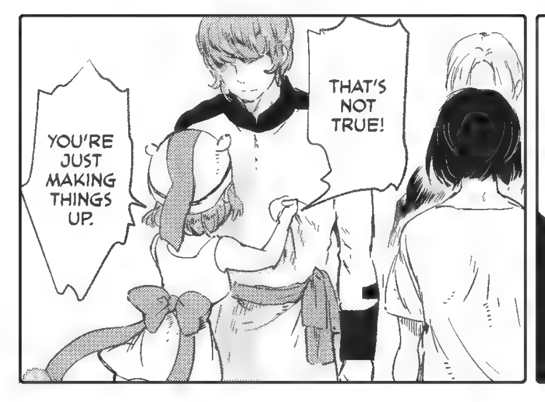

CHA-KURO ...
...CALM DOWN.


HE HAS ALWAYS MADE SACRIFICES, EVEN HERE ON THE MUD WHALE


WHAT ABOUT OUNI?


ARE THEY GOING TO TURN HIM INTO A SOLDIER FOR THE EMPIRE?
IF THEY WANTED TO KILL OUNI, THEY WOULD HAVE DONE IT ALREADY.
MOST LIKELY THEY WANT OUNI...
...FOR HIS THYMIA.







PLEASE, SUOU!

DON'T ABANDON OUNI AND LYKOS!

SUOU!!

UMM ...

WHAT DID HE MEAN, THE MUD WHALE IS EATING US?

IS THAT TRUE?

HOW LONG HAVE THE UN-MARKED KNOWN?

WHAT'S EATING US?

I'M SCARED!

MAYOR SUOU, WE NEED TO FIND LAND QUICKLY!

MY SISTER IS 25 AND SHE CAN'T GET OUT OF BED. WE DON'T HAVE ANY TIME TO LOSE.


NO!
OUNI AND LYKOS NEVER ABANDONED THE UNMARKED WHO WERE CAPTURED ON AMONLOGIA!
SO YOU'RE SAYING IT'S OKAY FOR MY SISTER TO DIE FOR THEM?
WWAAHH
WAH!
BUT...
WELL, WELL...
THIS IS GETTING INTER-ESTING.
BE QUIET!!
GRUMBLE
GRUMBLE...
CLENCH

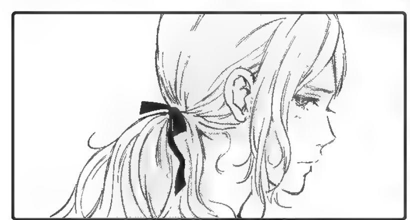

THE MUD WHALE...
...IS HEADING TOWARD NEW LAND...
...AND PRIORITIZING THE MOST LIVES...
WE WILL ABANDON PLANS TO RESCUE OUNI AND LYKOS.
THIS...
...IS MY DECISION AS MAYOR OF THE MUD WHALE, AND AN ORDER!
UNDER THE CIRCUM-STANCES...
...THERE WILL BE NO DEBATE.
I WILL NOT HEAR ANY OBJECTIONS!

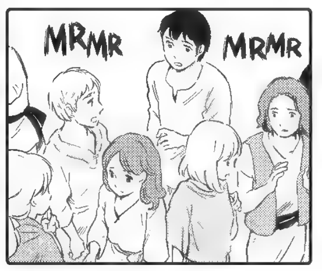
I WILL NOT OVERTURN THIS DECISION.





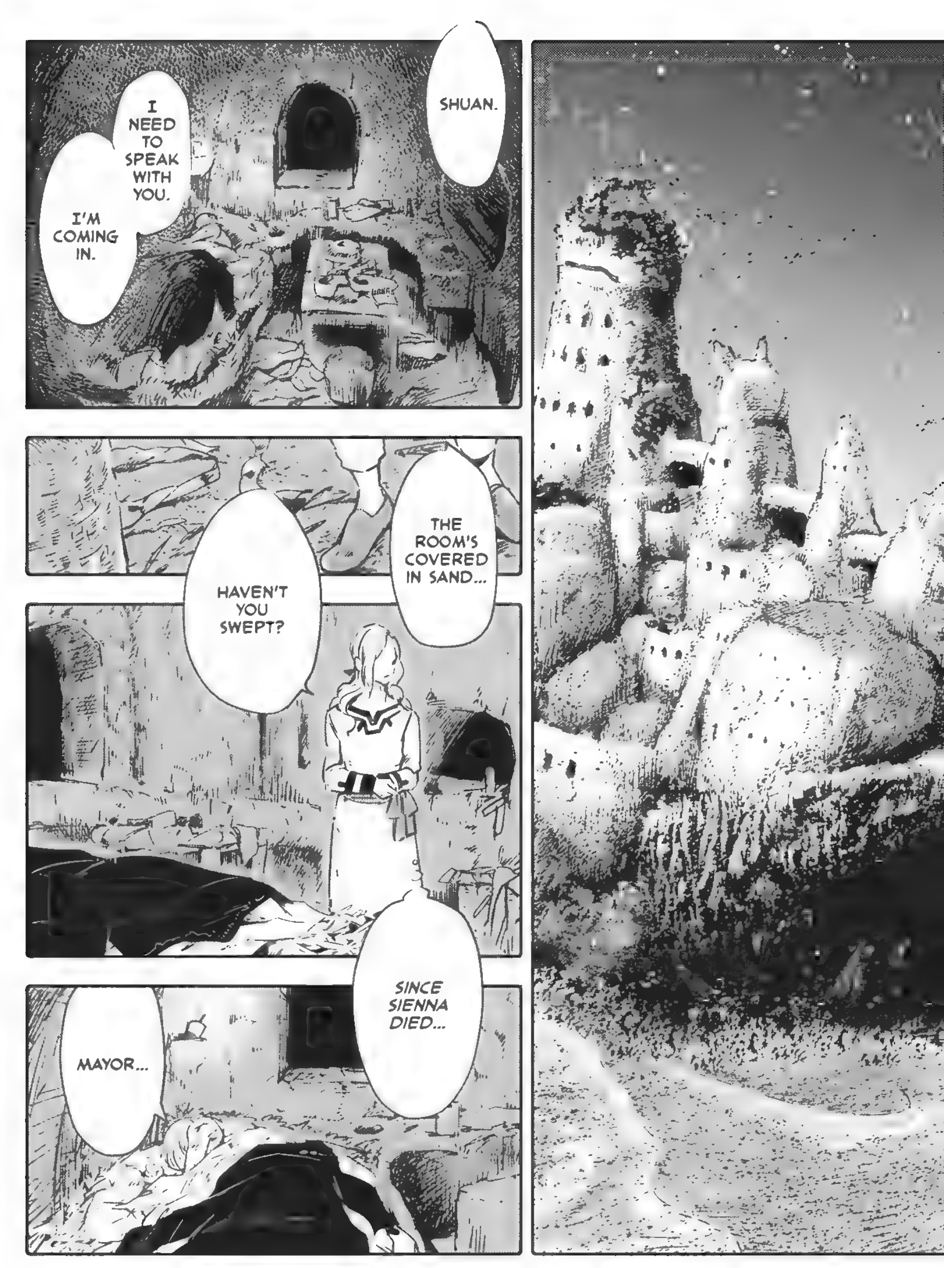

WAIT!
SUOU ...



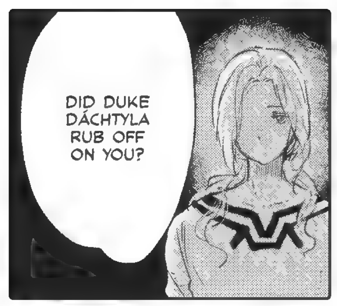

THAT...
...WASN'T LIKE SUOCCHI AT ALL.
SHFF

MRMR
MRMR

TONOKO!
SHFF
SORRY.
I'M ON MAYOR SUOU'S SIDE.


SUOU...
THIS ISN'T RIGHT.
THIS...
CHA-KURO.
STAGGER
CHA-KURO!
THUD
HE'S BLEED-ING.
HIS WOUND'S REOPENED ...
HURRY UP AND GET HIM BACK TO THE INFIRMARY!

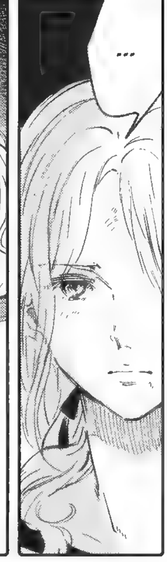

SHUAN.
I NEED TO SPEAK WITH YOU.
I'M COMING IN.
THE ROOM'S COVERED IN SAND...
HAVEN'T YOU SWEPT?
SINCE SIENNA DIED...
MAYOR...


WHAT WAS THAT?
WHAT HAP-PENED?


DID DUKE DÁCHTYLA RUB OFF ON YOU?


HAVE YOU BECOME A MONSTER TO PROTECT YOUR PEOPLE?
IF THE SITUATION WERE DIFFER-ENT...
...I WOULD COMPLIMENT YOU ON SHEDDING THAT GOODY-GOODY...
...IDEALISTIC PERSONA OF YOURS.


BUT I DON'T THINK I CAN RIGHT NOW.


...


I'LL NEVER ASK ANYTHING LIKE THIS OF YOU AGAIN.
SHUAN...


I WANT YOU...
...TO DO ME A FAVOR.
?

OUNI...
LYKOS...
WE LIVED TOGETHER.
In this little world...
...it's...


...it's...
...it's not just a life.


Yes.

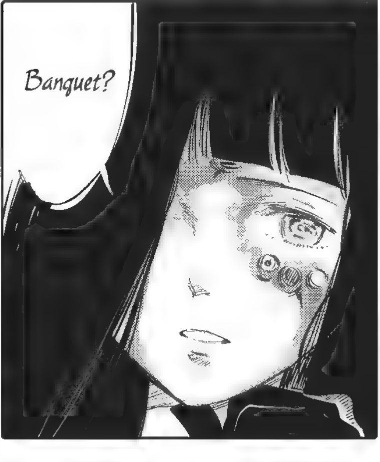

Records ...
Every single person has voluminous records to their name.


Can you hear me?

Marmarigias of Karcharías...

Prin-cess?

I thought we would start the banquet.






I'm sending some of your sisters your way...
Please make them welcome.
I think...
...it's time for me to make my way toward you.


If Orca thinks he's going to start the Kataklysmós for humans...
...then...
...and just as people's thoughts reach toward the heavens...
...and shower down like the petals of flowers in full bloom...
...just as these towers of records...
...crumble away after burning in a spiral of sparks...

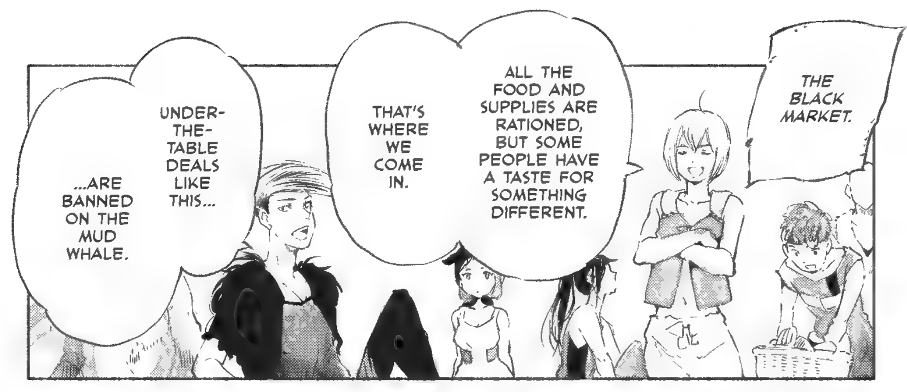

...so I wish to meet at the end of the Sea of Sand.
On this day, the center of the earth began to move.
Dawn of Resolution -The End
Children of the Whale volume 13 -The End-


CHILDREN OF THE WHALES


A Record from Kicha
DAY IN THE LIFE OF THE MOLES
I WONDER WHAT'S AT THE END OF THE SEA?
I'VE ALWAYS DREAMED OF UNKNOWN WORLDS ...
...AND WAS SURE THAT ONE DAY I WOULD LEAVE THIS ISLAND BEHIND.
THAT'S WHY WE REMEMBER EVEN THE LITTLE THINGS ABOUT LIFE ON THE MUD WHALE.
WE MOLES DO OUR OWN HUNTING...
...WHILE THE OTHER ISLANDERS HAVE TEAMS WHO DO IT METHODICALLY.
WAY TO GO, AIJIRO!
HEH HEH.
WHAT'S UP, OUNI?
HYUU
GLINT



WOW!
IT'S A GRAVEL CORAL FOSSIL.
I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW MANY OF THEM FLOAT NEAR THE MUD WHALE.
HOW PRETTY...
WE DON'T FOLLOW THE ISLAND'S RULES.
WE DON'T DO ANY CHORES, AND WE DON'T TAKE STOCK OF FOOD OR SUPPLIES LIKE THOSE GUYS.
THE OOMASA-GOCHIKU GROWS WILD, SO WE HELP OURSELVES TO THAT...
...BUT WE DON'T TOUCH ANY-THING ON THE FARMS.
JOLT
WE DON'T WORK THE FARMS, SO WE DON'T STEAL FROM THEM EITHER.
BUT THERE IS A WAY WE CAN GET PRODUCE FROM THE FARMS.
IS THIS OKAY?
Y-YEAH!
HERE YOU GO.





RUMMAGE

HE SAYS KEEP IT.

Wow, that's Ouni for you!

AFTER ALL, YOU'RE NOMINALLY FEMALE, RIGHT KICHA?

Nominally?!

!

IT WAS A PRETTY PALE TURQUOISE COLOR.

I STILL HAVE IT. IT'S SEWN INTO MY SASH.

The End


CHILDREN OF THE WHALES

A Note on Names

Those who live on the Mud Whale are named after colors in a language unknown. Abi Umeda uses Japanese translations of the names, which we have maintained. Here is a list of the English equivalents for the curious.

Aijiro	pale blue
Benihi	scarlet
Buki	kerria flower (*yamabuki*)
Byakuroku	malachite mineral pigments, pale green tinged with white
Chakuro	blackish brown (*cha* = brown, *kuro* = black)
Furano	from "flannel," a soft-woven fabric traditionally made of wool
Ginshu	vermillion
Hakuji	porcelain white
Jiki	golden
Kicha	yellowish brown
Kikujin	koji mold, yellowish green
Kogare	burnt muskwood, dark reddish brown
Kuchiba	decayed-leaf brown
Masoh	cinnabar
Miru	seaweed green
Nashiji	a traditional Japanese crepe weave fabric
Neri	silk white
Nezu	mouse gray
Nibi	dark gray
Ouni	safflower red
Rasha	darkest blue, nearly black
Ro	lacquer black
Sami	light green (*asa* = light, *midori* = green)

Shikoku	purple-tinged black
Shikon	purple-tinged navy
Shinono	the color of dawn (*shinonome*)
Shuan	dark bloodred
Sienna	reddish brown
Sumi	ink black
Suou	raspberry red
Taisha	red ocher
Tobi	reddish brown like a kite's feather
Tokusa	scouring rush green
Tonoko	the color of powdered grindstone, a pale brown
Urumi	muddy gray



The Amonlogian streets and scenery turned out differently than I had originally imagined. I hope can use my initial ideas at some point.

—Abi Umeda

ABI UMEDA debuted as a manga creator with the one-shot "Yukokugendan" in *Weekly Shonen Champion. Children of the Whales* is her eighth manga work.



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